THE Hongkong Weekly Press AND China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTH.

On January 14th, at Shanghai, the wife of JOHN J. SYMINGTON, of a son.

DEATHS.

On January 15th, at Shanghai, ANNIE, the widow of the late I. P. Martin, formerly British Postmaster, Shanghai, aged 70 years.

On January 15th, at Ningpo, Major J. C. WATSON.

On the 20th inst., at the Victoria Hospital, Hongkong, the wife of J. W. HANSON (Chief Detective Inspector of Police.)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

Chief Detective Inspector HANSON tenders his sincere thanks to all kind friends for expressions of sympathy.

AGRADECIMENTO.

ANTONIO FONSECA, ATHANAZIA DA LIMA FONSECA, seus filhos, genros, e nora, penhorados, agradece em por este meio a todos os seus amigos, e pessoas de suas relações pelas manifestações de condolencia n'occasião do fallecimento de sua estremosa filha, irmã, e cunhada ALMIRA CARMELITA.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD C'L.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of December 27th arrived, per the s.s. *Peninsula*, on Thursday, the 23rd instant.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

The estimates provide $20,000 for this year's nullah training works. The P.W.D. has submitted a programme to absorb $19,100.

The resumption and re-entry into and upon Survey District 102, lot No. 141, San Tin, in the New Territories, has been cancelled by His Excellency the Governor-in-Council.

It is reported that a contract for the building of a new steam tender for the Portuguese Government at Timor has been placed with the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. Ld.

The Duke of Connaught's statue is to remain permanently on its present site facing Pedder's wharf, but a finer pedestal will probably be provided. The P. W. D. has recommended a design for this.

A report of a meeting of the Public Works Committee, laid before the Legislative Council on Jan. 23, shows that several members agreed as to the necessity of dredging Causeway Bay, which we advocated as an immediate step pending the completion of the new typhoon refuge. Mr. Boulton estimates the cost at $70,000. There are people who think it could be done for less.

The report of the Subsidiary Coin Committee, laid before the Legislative Council on Jan. 23, contains too much matter adequately to be noted in our congested space to-day. It may be mentioned that the members were sharply divided, and that the same old confusion as to possible remedies still prevailed. The majority submitted a draft Bill on lines adopted from Singapore, prohibiting the import and circulation of all alien subsidiary coinage, except cash. The various minutes give an interesting summary of the mixed views prevailing in the Colony.

At the tiffin tendered to H. I. H. Prince Hiroyasu Fushimi at Government House on Jan. 21st there were present with H.E the Governor and Lady Lugard His Lordship the Bishop of Victoria, Hon. Mr. and Mrs. F. H. May, Admiral Sir Arthur Moore, Major General Broadwood, Sir Francis Piggott, Lieutenant Aiyokawa, Mr. Mashiko, Captain Mitchell Taylor, A.D.C., Captain Fleming, extra A.D.C. and Mr. A. J. Brackenbury, private secretary. In the afternoon His Imperial Highness returned aboard the "Hakata Maru," which vessel left port later.

Early this week a fire occurred on the north face works of the Kowloon Canton Railway, destroying the store, which was was stocked with timber and other articles, and the contractors' matsheds in the rear, and doing damage to the extent of a few thousand dollars. The outbreak was caused by sparks from a ballast engine, and not withstanding the prompt response of those engaged on the works to a timely alarm, the matsheds were built of such inflammable material that the buildings were burned to the ground before the fire fighters could do anything to check the outbreak.

The favourite site for the new typhoon harbour seems to be at Cheungshawan.

We learn that the net profit of the Kawasaki Dockyard Company for the last half-year amounted to Y504,222, including a surplus of Y47,978 brought over from last account. Of this sum Y51,000 has been placed to the reserve, Y25,000 to the special reserve, and Y20,000 to the reserve, for the depreciation of machinery, buildings, &c. The sum of Y274,400 will be distributed as an ordinary dividend and Y68,800 as a special dividend, the two payments being equal to 12.5 per cent. per annum as usual. Besides, a sum of Y22,500 will be paid as bonuses to officials, and the surplus of Y42,522 carried forward.

The Ven. Archdeacon A. E. Moule, himself a poet, is writing his reminiscences of seventy years, for the *N.-C. Daily News*. He tells the following interesting story of Tennyson: My own acquaintance was by letter alone. I sent the Laureate, with a brief note, a Chinese proverb containing a very striking parallel to his lines in a poem called the Peak. The "Peak is high, and the heavens are high, But man's heart is ever higher," so says Tennyson, and thus speak the Chinese, "High heaven is not reckoned high, man's heart is higher and higher." I received a rather gruff reply to the effect that "in the literature of the world you can always find something like something else," which is precisely what I pointed out.

KULANGSU (AMOY) MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at the Board Room, on the 31st December 1907.

Present:—Messrs. W. H. Wallace (Chairman), C. A. V. Bowra, N. Kruse, W. Wilson, and the Secretary

1. The minutes of the last meeting are read and confirmed.

2. The estimates, as presented, for 1908 are passed.

3. The accounts for 1907 are read and passed.

4. The Secretary is instructed to publish the usual notices regarding "Annual Meeting," "List of Ratepayers," "Notice calling for names of gentlemen to serve on 1908 Council," and to forward a letter to the Senior Consul asking him to call the annual meeting of ratepayers for Tuesday, 21st January 1908.

5. The Secretary is instructed to publish an "Express" whenever permission has been given to commanders of ships of war to land parties for small arm practice.

6. The Superintendent of Police reports the following cases have been heard in the Mixed Court since the last meeting:—

SUMMONS.

Breach of Municipal Regulations 2, Allowing pigs or cattle to stray 5, illegally quarrying stone 1, debt 2.

SUMMARY ARRESTS.

Theft 4, committing a nuisance 1, returning from deportation 1 Being in possession of stolen property 1.

(Signed) W. H. Wallace,
Chairman

By order,
C. Berkeley Mitchell,
Secretary.

THE WEST RIVER.

Daily Press. January 20th.

Canton and West River steam-boat officers talk a good deal about the good that has been or is being accomplished in the Delta by the British naval assistance now being given to the work of coping with piracy. Where formerly such deeds of lawlessness were of daily occurrence, very little has been heard of them since the international patrol was begun. British prestige has been more than strengthened, according to these witnesses, who claim that far inland from the waterways the significance of the change has been appreciated. It is to be hoped they do not rejoice excessively, for that is just what was needed. The scant attention so far paid to anti-foreign manifestations no doubt helped to embolden the unfriendly, who are mainly, so far as their attitude towards foreigners is concerned, ignorant children who need only a dangled rod to make them good. The determined attitude of Peking, belatedly alive to the mischief of neglecting these agitators, has had a wonderful effect in both north and south, and we may for a time expect to feel fewer of the irritating pinpricks that have in the last year become far too common. The agitators of both north and south have been well snubbed, which was all they really needed, and with regard to the hated presence of foreign war craft in southern Chinese waters, they appear now to be reconciled to its necessity. At least we hear no more now of indignation meetings or protesting telegrams. With the pirates themselves, of course, it never was a question of politics, but always a purely business matter, and we fear they are merely "lying low" till the policeman leaves his beat. This will explain the lack of enthusiasm in the comments of the British bluejackets who return every week end from the waters of the Delta. They have found their work unexciting, even tedious, and would, of course, have preferred to have a bolder enemy to deal with. This is not the pleasantest season of the year to be cruising up the local rivers, and their brief rests at Hongkong do not assist them to a happier appreciation of the duty that has been thrust upon them. In accordance with the careful policy of considering in every possible way Chinese susceptibilities, they overhaul only such craft as fly their own flag, and naturally not a suspicious launch among them all now hoists the British jack. One extra good result, perhaps, will thus be attained, as all Chinese-owned launches, honest or otherwise, will be likely to revert to the use of their own proper bunting. It is to be hoped that the Customs and Chinese officials will show their recognition of the desirability of every craft sailing under its own true colours.

A CASE FOR THE HAGUE.

(*Daily Press*, January 21st.)

Though the Hague Conference has been unproductive in greater matters, it has at least strengthened the cause of Arbitration in such seemingly lesser affairs as disputed boundaries. As a rule controversies respecting boundaries arise not from preconceived ill-will, but from differences of opinion regarding the meaning of prior agreements, frequently made when both parties were equally ignorant of the details of the country intersected; and so intentionally made in vague general terms, in the hope that when the time came for accurate delineation the intention would be sufficiently clear. Of such a nature was the agreement made between England and Russia regarding the coast boundary between Alaska and British Columbia, which was loosely put down as following the summits of the coast chain of mountains. The real point in question which afterwards led to a very considerable divergence of opinion between the United States and Great Britain, namely the question of access to the sea, never having occurred to either of the negotiators. When both the adjacent countries, Alaska and British Columbia, became of importance the former having been acquired by the United States, and found to be rich in minerals, and the latter falling to the Dominion of Canada, and found to contain the rich gold field of Klondyke, this question of access from the sea became the pressing question of the day, and national feeling in both countries rose to such a pitch of intensity that war was openly spoken of on both sides. Neither party, of course, repudiated the original agreement made between Great Britain and Russia, but the question was: what did it mean? Practically it had no meaning when it came to be sifted, and this was the gordian knot that came before the arbitrators to unravel. Unfortunately the arbitrators were all English or American, and the outside feelings of the two countries were reflected in the arbitration chamber, so that at last the insoluble knot had to be cut.

A not dissimilar controversy has arisen on the other side of the Pacific between China and Japan regarding the boundary between Manchuria and Korea, and as in the other, its importance hinges on the identical question of access to the sea. There are, however naturally important differences between the two cases, Japan poses here as champion for Korea; but the Koreans perhaps have no practical interest in the issue, it being a matter of perfect indifference to them whether or not China shall enjoy a direct outlook on the Pacific. Between China and Japan this is, of course, the principal issue at stake. By the accepted principles of international law, a nation having a frontage on a navigable river has the inherent right to navigate it, and China sees that having, as she contends, a frontage on the Tumen river, an entrance to the Sea of Japan would follow, which in view of the fact that she has large territorial issues in the basins of the Sungary and Chulcha, otherwise inaccessible from southern seas, has become to her a matter of grave importance. Japan on the other hand would willingly see her neighbour and rival shut out from access to the Sea of Japan unless on such terms as Japan would be pleased to dictate. With interests so entirely opposed, and national feelings on both sides considerably excited, it is easy to see that neither is in a fit frame to enter on a calm discussion, and that force actual or at hand would take the entire ground from reason or right. It is in effect a typical case of the difficulty intended to be surmounted by the establishment of the Hague Court of Arbitration. The boundary was more than a century ago defined by treaty, and it is mainly on the principles therein agreed on that the question would legally have to be decided; for such a decision the Court is in every way fitted, and moreover has the requisite standing and machinery. China, as we showed some time ago, has made out a sufficient prima facie case to go to court; Japan's claim has not as yet been stated in full, so that public opinion is quite open, and the case would go to arbitration unbiassed by outside feeling.

The case is, of course, complicated by a curious arrangement entered into between China and Korea some two centuries ago, that a considerable area alongside their boundary line was to be considered practically neutral ground, not to be peopled by either. This was conceived with the intention of thereby preventing any cause of trouble arising to disturb the good feeling existing. Times have so changed, in a manner, too, for which neither was responsible, that this agreement has added another complication to be adjusted. Like the former it is one difficult or impossible of adjustment by interested parties, who can scarcely be expected to bring to the discussion sufficiently clear and open minds. It is however one that is familiar to judicial minds, and no doubt would disappear when submitted to such. On the whole the Chientao dispute between China and Japan is especially such a case as is most fitted to be submitted to the Hague Tribunal; and this the more so as issues wider than those of either party are likely to be involved unless such a course be taken. We believe the Chinese Government has already stated its willingness to take this course, and in this, we think, it has acted wisely. It is not so clear, however, why Japan has not accepted the suggestion; which as at the moment physically the stronger Power, it would certainly become her to do. At the same time, we are not blind to the possibility of the retort that if all the other Powers had agreed to arbitration on issues with China, in the past, more could now be expected of Japan.

MORE SENTIMENT.

(*Daily Press*, January 22nd.)

Without going the length that CARLYLE went in his impatience with the "mostly" kinds of his fellow countrymen, we are bound to mention now and then the conviction that is almost daily borne in upon us, that mankind on the average is generally absurd when it encounters an idea. Perhaps it is that it is so "newfangled" with its rare ideas that it grows fond and foolish, like a young mother with her first baby. With the strongest of humanitarian instincts—indeed, impelled by them—we declare the sentimental humanitarians who make "cruelty to animals" their special *bête noir* form one of the absurdest sets of people we can think of. Every right minded man or woman resents wanton cruelty, but those who make a fad of the work of the N. S. P. C. A. sometimes reduce a noble resentment to a puerile farce. Their charity embraces the pretty-pretties, and too often ignores the sufferings of humbler creatures. Worst of all, their intolerance of cruelty to animals often leads them into cruelty to man. In England we have often heard paid officers of the N.S.P.C.A., who are like policemen in their desire to have a creditable show of convictions to prove their diligence, inform the Magistrates that "the horse in question had a sore the size of a shilling on his back." The poor carter, whose children's food and health depended probably on the meagre earnings of their parent and his patient quadruped, would thereupon be fined a fortnight's earnings, and the case went down in the annals of the society as one more item to show to subscribers as an inducement of their benevolent support. "In my opinion, your Worships, the horse was suffering pain. It flinched when I pressed the wound with my finger." The intelligent officer, and their sapient Worships, did not seem to notice that the real question at issue was whether that pain was needlessly, wantonly, or cruelly inflicted. We have seen a gentle lady, aroused to

indignation at the sight of a man beating a jibbing horse, assault that astonished man with her umbrella, and if our sense of fairplay had not been stronger than our instinct of gallantry, we should later have seen the poor fellow mulcted in costs. As it was, it was touch and go. These memories and reflections have been revived by some remarks in a local contemporary, which has just been "surprised" to discover in our "Chronicle and Directory" that there is a branch of the S. P. C. A. at Hongkong, and forthwith insists that its members should at once be up and doing. All around there is work for it. We respectfully protest, and beg the local society not to let itself be fussed into fussing. With inky tears dripping from its maudlin pen, our belatedly humane contemporary beseeches us to contemplate the Chinese cook's manner of carrying a chicken by its wings. As if we had not contemplated day after day that sorry sight, the cook worried with the job of carrying too many parcels in the other hand, and the troubled fowl, wishing the uncomfortable strain on its "shoulders" might be relaxed, and that "a body might be allowed to walk." Too sympathetic to laugh, too hopeless to protest, we view that familiar scene with inward comments that the N. S. P. C. A. would not gladly record in its archives. For was it not those very sentimentalists who instigated the byelaw that abolished the time-honoured method of carrying the fowl by the legs? They decided, we suppose, that the flow of blood to the chicken's head in the ancient position must inconvenience it. What is expected now we do not quite see, but if the cook has to bring the bird home in his bosom, we do not envy the fowl, and we shall "pass" the chicken cutlets at tiffin. As we pointed out long ago, one of the more cruel things we have seen at Hongkong has been the summer fly-paper in the shop windows, with the little animals struggling in what to them must seem an eternity of torment; yet what member of the local society would dream of prosecuting for cruelty to an insect? The owner of a performing bear has his living to make, and the bird-shop keepers have theirs, and while we can feel for the sufferings of the animals in their "care," we can also admit that they have not any more to complain of than the China pony whose jockey brings him "up the straight" amid the plaudits of admiring hundreds, with the usual bethwackings on his labouring ribs. It is impossible, maugre the "Christian Scientists," to abolish all pain from the world, and the most we can be expected to do is to interfere in cases of clearly wanton cruelty. It is our duty to guard against letting our softer feelings lead us into cruelty to our kind, as the exaggerated humanitarian threatens to do. There is quite enough real and patent cruelty to be seen, without straining at gnats and straining the law.

RATS AND PLAGUE.

(*Daily Press*, January 23rd.)

We hope that our readers, wading through the long Sanitary Board discussion on rats and rat catching, would not overlook the important fact that it is not so much the rats as the fleas they carry which are the plague spreaders. It should not require the opinion of "a well known authority on plague" to convince us that the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health (to reduce the fussiness of that intrusive and ineffective body, the rat catchers) is a good one. We do not know that it has ever been satisfactorily established that rat fleas make a practice of attacking human beings, though some connection between plague areas and the presence of these things seems to be beyond doubt. It is certain, however, that rat fleas are not the only offenders, and that other insects, including the saltatory parasite not to be openly mentioned in the drawing-room, are capable of conveying the disease about. The excessive attention paid to rat catching has always been apparent to people who do their own thinking on small matters without waiting for the *obiter dicta* of well known authorities. The annoyance and mischief caused by the gang of coolies engaged in that work has never been compensated for by the results attained, and it is gratifying at last to find the officials open to conviction. The opinion of Mr. HOOPER, of the uselessness of "rat funnels" compulsorily placed on the moorings of ships lying alongside wharves, is also commendably sound, if belated. Ever since the prosecutions of four or five years ago, we have derived a certain amount of melancholy amusement from that sample of red-tapey wisdom. No device ever attached to any hawser ever prevented any able bodied rat from leaving ship for shore at will, but to see these cones or funnels placed (under penalty) on hawsers not five yards from broad and easy gangways, or on ships whose very fenders were rubbing the wharf, was irresistibly funny, unless one's mood happened to be one of impatience. Why Mr. HOOPER wants further evidence on this point from the captains of ships we cannot imagine, except on the hypothesis that there is a virus of "expertomania," which attacks business men and makes them disposed to bow down to the fetich of the expert in all their daily comings and goings. America has produced an expert adviser on the art of eating a beefsteak, but the world managed that job fairly well before "Fletcherising" was heard of; and we venture the assertion that most people will recognise the idiotic superfluousness of rat funnels in the position indicated without waiting for expert guidance. Failing the Pied Piper of Hamelin (who must be classed with the "Christian Science" fables) there is a fine chance for some Dick Whittington to take up His Excellency's suggestion and import cats to Hongkong. Mr. HOOPER'S fears that the Chinese will eat them do not spoil it as a commercial speculation. His Excellency evidently did not need any experts beyond his own observations and commonsense to see that the object of its existence was being defeated by the rat-catching corps, and that rat-catching is, after all, *one* of the anti-plague measures, perhaps necessary, but certainly not pre-eminently necessary. Concrete floors and drains are likely to be cleaner, but even they won't abolish rats. Nor will the Chinese apply to the Sanitary Board for rat-catching devices. The point is this. They want to get rid of the rats just as any foreign householder does, but (in common with many of the latter) they dread the fuss that may follow any betrayal of the presence of the vermin. The education of the Chinese in foreign ideas of hygiene is the best solution, bound to tell in the end. But let it be sound hygiene, and not fads.

Railway estimates to December next (Kowloon to Canton) published yesterday, mention $3,250,000 as the amount to be spent this year. Last year about $2,914,461 was expended, rather more than the estimate. Preliminary expenses are over now. The chief item this year is $1,250,000 for land.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on the 23rd instant in the Council Chamber.

PRESENT:—

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Frederick John Dealtry Lugard, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.

Hon. Mr. F. H. May (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Mr. E. M. Thomson (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, C.M.G. (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin (Registrar-General).

Hon. Commander Basil R. H. Taylor, R.N. (Harbour Master).

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, M.B., C.M., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C.

Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett.

Hon. Mr. H. Keswick.

Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk.

Hon. Mr. F. Osborne.

Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

The Colonial Secretary, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table Financial Minutes Nos. 1 and 2, and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

PAPERS.

The Colonial Secretary, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the report of the Subsidiary Coinage Committee and a report of the estimated expenditure on the Kowloon Canton Railway (British Section) for the year 1908.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

The Director of Public Works, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the Report of the Public Works Committee (No. 1).

KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION.

The Colonial Secretary—I beg that the resolution standing in my name be in the first instance referred to the Finance Committee. The resolution was as follows:—"It is hereby resolved that a sum of Four million two hundred and fifty thousand Dollars ($4,250,000) be advanced out of funds in the custody of the Government for the purpose of construction of the Kowloon-Canton Railway (British Section) during the year 1908.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

CHINESE EMIGRATION AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

The Colonial Secretary—In the absence of the learned neighbour on my left I beg to move the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Chinese Emigration Ordinance, 1899.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded and the Bill was read a first time.

THE EVIDENCE ORDINANCE.

The Colonial Secretary moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to facilitate the admission in evidence of Statutes passed by the Legislatures of British Possessions and British Protectorates including Cyprus.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded, and the Bill was read a first time.

THE FIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

The Colonial Secretary moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to authorise the removal of Fire Insurance Companies from the Register of Companies in certain cases.

The Colonial Treasurer seconded, and the Bill was read a first time.

FIRE BRIGADE ORDINANCE.

The Colonial Secretary moved the second reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Fire Brigade Ordinance, 1864. He said—In addition, Sir, to the reasons given in the objects and reasons of the Bill, I would say that the object of this Ordinance is to give the Captain Superintendent of Police, who is also Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, the same powers over men under his command in the Fire Brigade as he possesses over men under his

command in the police force It is well to bear in mind in this connection that all European members of the Fire Brigade with the exception of two, are also members of the Police Force. Under the regulations which will be framed by the Governor-in-Council under this Bill when it becomes law, the two European members who are not members of the Police force will not be made subject to the punishments which can be inflicted by the Captain-Superintendent of Police, their ranks being such as to render it undesirable that punishment be inflicted upon them. The remainder of the Brigade are Chinese, and it is extremely desirable that the Superintendent should have power to punish these Chinese firemen directly in the same way as he punishes Chinese constables in the Police force.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the Bill was read a second time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY then moved that the Council resolve itself into a committee of the whole Council to consider the Bill clause by clause.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

On Council resuming, the COLONIAL SECRETARY reported that the Bill had passed through committee with a slight amendment.

His EXCELLENCY—Council stands adjourned until this day fortnight.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held, the COLONIAL SECRETARY presiding. The following votes were passed :—

SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

The GOVERNOR recommended the Council to vote a sum of three thousand four hundred and thirty-three dollars $3,433) in aid of the vote, Sanitary Department, Other Charges, Compensation for infected cargo destroyed.

The CHAIRMAN—This expenditure has been incurred in connection with a consignment of cattle in which anthrax had broken out, and which were returned to Hongkong. It was necessary that certain cargo should be destroyed, and this compensation was assessed under the provisions of the law covering such matters, and it is now desired that the authority of the Council shall be given to pay it.

SQUATTERS' COMPENSATION.

The GOVERNOR recommended the Council to vote a sum of one thousand three hundred and three dollars ($1,303) as compensation to certain squatters whose removal was necessitated by the sale of Kowloon Inland Lot 1203

The CHAIRMAN—This expenditure was incurred as compensation to certain squatters. The Government had promised them other sites but they preferred to have the hard cash Accordingly the Government has made this disbursement, and has got the land. I do not know who has made the best bargain, but I fancy the Government has in the long run.

KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY EXPENDITURE.

The CHAIRMAN—I would invite members attention to the estimated expenditure paper dealing with the Kowloon-Canton Railway up to December 1908. In connection with that statement I would inform members that the headings of Nos. 3 and 4 columns are not quite as clear as they might be. The heading of No. 3 column reads "estimated total expenditure for 1907." The intention of the draughtsman was that the word "for" should mean "to the end of". It really should be to the end of 1907. The expenditure for 1906 is included in that for 1907. The same explanation applies to the next column. If any member wishes for any information concerning the items appearing under the separate heads I will be glad to give it.

Hon. Mr. KESWICK—I wish for some information. Does the work actually come up to the expenditure? We are asked to vote the large sum of $4,250,000, and I am not at all satisfied that we are getting full value for our money as things are going. Before voting on this proposed provision I should like to be satisfied that the work is getting on well, and that the estimates are as correct as can be, otherwise at the end of 1908 we shall have another vote, and be called upon again to make up deficiencies above the estimate.

The CHAIRMAN—In answer to the first part of what the hon. gentleman said I would like to say that on the whole the progress of the work to date is satisfactory. The main tunnel is not as far forward as the consulting engineer had estimated it would be, but of course in dealing with a tunnel you are really working in the dark; you don't know what difficulties you will meet with, and the tunnel has proved an extremely difficult one so far. I am glad to be able to say that recently the progress in the tunnel has improved very much, largely owing to the fact that the rock met with is more amenable. At the same time I think it is right to state that the estimate on that particular item of the tunnel will largely exceed the original estimate. In fact, there is no concealing the fact that the estimate for the whole railway is much larger than was originally estimated for.

Hon. Mr. KESWICK—Can you tell us what the original estimate for the railway was?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The original estimate was £550,001.

Hon. Mr. KESWICK—And at the end of this year we shall have expended $7,164,451, and the railway will not be built. There has been a saving in regard to the work done on bridges.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—I believe I am right in saying tunnelling is a work of a special nature Have they got a special engineer in charge of this work, or is it carried on by—

The CHAIRMAN—The overseer of the work has had large experience in tunnels, and there is a superintendent who has been in the habit of organising labour in tunnels.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—I believe it was not so originally.

The CHAIRMAN—He came out about four or five months ago, but there is no question of the capacity of the engineer in dealing with tunnels.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—I did not question that It was a question of a man with special training.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Can we get an estimate of what we have got to pay for the building of the British section?

The CHAIRMAN—The estimate as it stands is $8,000,000 exclusive practically of land. There are other items such as construction and engineering staff, a considerable expenditure for land preparation, station sites and buildings such as the terminus station.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Land includes land resumption. That is a particularly big item I think we should have some information about that.

The CHAIRMAN—I am unable to place you in possession of the facts. Since the original estimate was formed a larger view of the interests has been taken, and the Government has recently acquired by resumption Blackhead's property near Blackhead's Point. That, of course, means a very considerable sum of money.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK How much?

The CHAIRMAN—The formalities are not actually concluded. I would rather not mention the figure.

Hon. Mr. KESWICK—Might I refer you to the heading "bridge work." Presumably labour is not cheaper than it has been. Of the estimated three lacs there was only expended two and a half lacks in 1907. The money has all gone and we have not got the bridges. I don't understand how the money has entirely disappeared even allowing for the increased expenditure on the tunnel I think it a most unsatisfactory state of affairs.

The COLONIAL TREASURER—It has not disappeared It is in the columns.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK You have under-estimated in certain directions, and starved other work.

The CHAIRMAN The explanation for the small expenditure during 1907 on minor bridges was simply this: there was a change in the alignment necessitating a resurvey, and a considerable portion of the line work was not put as far forward as it had been anticipated.

Hon. Mr HEWETT—In regard to the change of alignment I understand that a considerable amount of paddy land was destroyed Is all that loss included in the sum?

The CHAIRMAN—The expenditure on the embankment, or on the land that has been abandoned?

Hon. Mr. HEWETT Was the land paid for?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, the land has been paid for.

Hon Mr. HEWETT—Might it be told the Council how much was the amount of money that was lost in the mistake in regard to the original alignment?

The CHAIRMAN—I don't think it was more than $25,000. Of course this land will be available for re-sale. We are negotiating at the present time for its sale.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—I understand it cannot be irrigated properly; at least a good deal of it.

The CHAIRMAN—Under the new alignment we have got a shorter route and a better route.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—Which you might have got in the first place if a proper survey had been made.

Hon. Mr. KESWICK—The salaries seem to have increased, and there is a large expenditure on quarters, office expenses, medical charges etc.

The CHAIRMAN—Of course the salaries increase as the work progresses We want more men in the tunnel the further we get in. The expenditure in regard to the quarters is accounted for in this way. Shatin was found to be very malarious, and it was decided on medical advice that the European staff quarters should be at a considerable height above the level of the valley. That necessitated a larger increase in expenditure.

Hon. Mr. OSBORN—Might I ask where the money is coming from for this railway?

The CHAIRMAN—You may remember that in 1905 this Council passed an Ordinance to authorise the Government to borrow a sum not to exceed £2,000,000. A fund for the railway will be borrowed under the authority of the vote under that Ordinance.

Hon Mr OSBORNE—As to the interest on that money?

The CHAIRMAN You will find it in the estimates in the current year.

Hon Mr OSBORNE—Is the interest chargeable to general revenue?

The CHAIRMAN—It is so chargeable.

Hon. Mr. KESWICK—Then we find ourselves liable for £1,000,000 sterling for a line 22 miles long, that seems to me an exceedingly large sum I understand the country is difficult and the tunnel will be exceedingly expensive, but it still seems to me that some economies might be made in the supervision of the work. A million seems an extraordinary sum for 22 miles of railway.

The CHAIRMAN—I am not an engineer, but this has been pronounced one of the most difficult pieces of railway work in China.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—Of the railways already constructed that may be.

The CHAIRMAN—Taking it on the whole it is as difficult a bit of railway as you will find anywhere. I think I may say every economy has been observed, and the railway is being built as cheaply as possible. Of course you know where the terminus is going to be and there is a large reclamation required, and that adds to the expense.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—What is the original time in which this railway was to be completed?

The CHAIRMAN—The engineer in charge hopes to finish about the middle of 1910.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—Was that the original estimate? I understood Sir Matthew Nathan said it would be completed in three years.

The CHAIRMAN—His last estimate was March 1910.

Hon Mr. HEWETT—Is there any reasonable ground for saying it will be then completed.

The CHAIRMAN—It is extremely difficult to say when you are dealing with tunnels. There is not only one tunnel; there is more than one tunnel. The question as to how long it takes to build a tunnel is one that no man could reliably prophesy. I think myself we will certainly see the railway completed three years from date. I think it will be done by that time, and I think it will be completed as soon as the Chinese section. Are members prepared to recommend this vote?

Hon Mr. HEWETT I certainly for one am not The amount is a large sum of money, and I think we should have more time to consider it I am certainly not prepared to vote for such a large expenditure on such short notice. I don't know whether the other unofficial members will support me. I have not spoken to them about it

Hon Mr KESWICK—I think we should have further details as to the work actually completed before voting in favour of such a large sum. I think we ought to be told what we have actually got for our money

The CHAIRMAN—There is no desire to rush it through in any way. If members wish for further information, and they give the Government the particular points on which they desire information I shall inform His Excellency of their desires, and His Excellency will only be too anxious to give all the information in his power, but it would be useful if we could have some definite point on which information is desired.

Hon. Mr. KESWICK—I think we might take the main heads—What is the total expenditure on land etc., and then we might be told how far the tunnel has proceeded; how many roads have been built, etc. It is really information on the progress that has been made and what remains to be done that we require.

The CHAIRMAN—With regard to items like land I am not in a position to give you the total information.

Hon. Mr. KESWICK—I recognise that there are items that we do not want to publish. We don't wish to embarass the Government.

Hon, Mr. OSBORNE—I would like to know whether questions such as the question of the route are decided for us at home by the engineers there, or whether the Colonial Officials decide them?

The CHAIRMAN—Everything incurring large expenditure is submitted to the Governor, and certainly is not undertaken without his consent.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—The colonists then, practically speaking, control the expenditure, and it is not controlled by the officials at home.

The CHAIRMAN—No, the Governor certainly controls in this matter. The staff cannot incur large expenditure without consulting the Governor.

Hon. Mr. KESWICK—Might I ask you do the consulting engineers give an opinion, do they give advice as to the line to be followed?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, certainly. The proposals are submitted to the engineers for expert advice, but large expenditures cannot be undertaken without the approval of the Governor.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—If the consulting engineers decided that a double track was necessary would they have power to build it whether the Colony wanted it or not?

The CHAIRMAN—No, not without the consent of the Governor.

Hon Mr. KESWICK—Their duty is more technical than otherwise?

The CHAIRMAN—They are the expert advisers on this particular class of work. I will report these proceedings to His Excellency, and I will undertake to get out a statement which I hope will satisfy you.

The Committee then adjourned.

A NOTABLE LECTURE.

"CHRISTIAN SCIENCE."

Caused, without doubt, by the interest in the subject, the *Daily Press* discussion has given to it, an unusually large audience crowded the City Hall on January 23rd to hear Mr. Francis J. Fluno lecture on "Christian Science and Christian Scientists" There were a few introductory words by the Hon. Mr. H. F. Pollock, who said he had been asked so often in the last few days, in the tram, by telephone, and by letter, if he were a Christian Scientist, that he wanted to tell them now he was not. [Loud applause.] He had come, as they had, to get information.

The lecturer, an old and benevolent looking gentleman, with long grey beard, and with a diamond flashing on his left hand, explained at the outset that he was not there to teach "Christian Science." Those who desired to learn what it was must study for themselves the text book, which Mrs. Eddy was inspired to write. He said, however:

"Since Christian Science is the Science of Being, it necessarily is the reverse of the sense testimony; i.e., it is the converse of the evidence of the senses, and is therefore just the opposite of most peoples' line of thought or way of thinking; and it must of necessity take time to turn from thinking one way, to thinking just the opposite way. We may give you some little idea of what it is and what it teaches, make some statements as to what it is and what it is not, and tell you in what way and by what means you may obtain it for yourself."

After a reference to Mrs. Eddy's life, career, and character, the Lecturer defined "Christian Science" as the Science of Being. It was the system of realising the nature of things, of the cosmos. It was the light thrown on life, showing to all in the dark bondage of the senses the real character of their environment. It was absolutely Christian, and absolutely scientific.

He then argued at some length that the world ought not to judge it by its adherents and professors. The best of them had still much to learn and far to go.

As "the simple fact of Being", that has "come by revelation," this knowledge was being widely embraced by a world that had waited for it Propagandism could not help it; hostile criticism could not hinder it, it was simply a revealed Truth, and must prevail. It was "the eternal Truth; it was God, in deed and in Truth, who had come to turn, and overturn, until He whose right it is shall reign." Because mathematicians sometimes erred, we did not condemn the science of numbers; neither should we condemn Christian Science when its believers erred.

"Any Christian Scientist in undertaking to help the sick, the suffering, and dying one, only undertakes to do what he can for him, never saying what he will do, or how much, and leaves the patient with perfect freedom at any time to seek and employ any other mode of treatment he chooses Christian Scientists have been accused of allowing those whom they are trying to help no freedom or choice of treatment or help. But nothing could be more false and untrue than this accusation. Christian Scientists leave their patients absolutely free to choose any kind of treatment they wish or to seek any relief they may, they only ask what any one else would ask, or should ask, that they let them know whenever they wish to make a change. Scientists never seek to influence any person against their own wished or desires, if they find one suffering in any way, they tell them where and how he can find help, and then leave him to decide for himself."

They claimed the Truth, but they asked none to accept it. Whether accepted or rejected, the Truth remained Like the science of mathematics, Christian Science "works not for converts and invites no numbers." As the eternal fact of Being it could stand alone. It would live through all ages yet to come as it had lived through all ages that have already come.

"And because Christian Science is the eternal fact of being, and the only fact of being, it does not therefore teach eternal banishment from God or Good, but on the contrary it teaches that all must come to Truth at last. Resist it as long and as strongly as you will, yet Love from its eternal character and its omnipotent and irresistible properties and qualities of purity and perfection will bring you like a wanderer home, stray you never so far or stay you never so long. God is Omnipotence, and being "Yesterday to day and for ever" the same, His omnipotence therefore for ever has been and for ever will remain. Hence, no other power can be, no other power has ever been, and no other power can ever be able to stay his mighty hand or thwart him in his purpose therefore God and Heaven are, and their opposite is not, and Divine Science is the Angel that comes to-day to lay hold on that old Serpent which is the Devil and Satan, and will chain him and cast him into the bottomless pit, the great nowhere, and all his Angels with him."

They did not seek converts from other religious denominations, but told the glad tidings to all who asked or cared to listen, "yet by no means to persuade them to accept its teachings." At this stage the venerable lecturer was affected patently with a throat trouble, and had to stop for a little while]

"Christian Scientists grow to be not afraid of eternal damnation, for themselves or others. They know the great goodness of God, that God is Good and the only Good, and Good, therefore, is omnipotent, omnipresent, and is always the same. Therefore, there never will be a time or place or condition when God, Good, will not be accessible to man. They are not therefore afraid that some one will die without the Truth, and be for ever lost, for God is Truth and changes not. His saving power and pardoning grace must therefore be and remain the same through all eternity."

"Christian Science fears no wrong, but Christian scientists do. They have not outgrown self-love and consequently have not overcome fear for themselves. They are outgrowing self love because they are studying the Spirit of Love, the Love that is God, and are consequently growing out of fear, for 'perfect Love casteth out fear.' Christian Science fears no defeat but Christian Scientists have that to demonstrate. They still have fear that a selfish and wicked world will for a time crush out and suppress the Christ Truth that has come to this age, as it came of old, to bring salvation to a world that cannot save itself from its self inflicted evils, to light a groping world out of its self benighted darkness. Christian scientists are those, who, like shepherds of old, have seen this light and are following where it leads, and would point others to that light that they may follow also. Christian Science is independent, it can stand alone; and Christian Scientists are growing into independence; not what the world calls independence, however, for the Christian Scientists' independence is absolute dependence upon God, the only Good. They are learning to make practicable the first commandment "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me" This they have not wholly attained to, but they are attaining to it. They have not yet learned their entire dependence upon God, but they are learning it, and so far as they are able, they are demonstrating it upon themselves, and this in every possible way. They are learning more and more to depend upon God, the One, the only Good In sickness and in health, sorrow and joy, in pain or in pleasure, in weakness or in strength, in rest or in fatigue, in sunshine or in storm, in times of plenty or in times of want, in times of peace and in times of war they are learning at all times and under all circumstances to follow the Christ through evil as well as good report. Christian Scientists, living more and more in that principle of inexhaustible plenitude, learn that certain independence of ways and means and a more perfect dependence upon the one great cause whose higher laws of spirit and spirituality annul the lower laws of matter and materiality, and consequently govern all things in the spiritual as well as in the so called material world And finding as they do this law of life made practicable, they never go outside of their own church and denomination to solicit money."

The lecturer emphasised this point of voluntary contribution and self-support at some length, and then said: "Hundreds are being healed every day of sickness as well as of sin, and of sin as well as of sickness, and these in their turn, are learning the great fact of Being and how to apply it in their own case, and upon those who in their turn shall come to them."

There were more than five hundred editions of "Science and Health," each of a thousand copies; with but one exception it was the greatest and most wonderful book ever written. It was not teaching a belief, but the impersonal Truth. It presented a science to be understood and demonstrated, not merely believed. "Christian Scientists" cannot properly be termed believers in Christian Science, any more than a mathematician could be called a believer in mathematics. They are students of Christian Science, they are studying to understand Christian Science but not trying to believe it. They soon see that their beliefs do not change anything; that what is true is true, whether they believe it or not; but if they would get the benefit of it they must understand it, the same in the science of being as in the science of numbers. No teacher in mathematics after demonstrating a proposition to a pupil ever thinks for a moment of asking that pupil if he believes it. He asks him if he understands it, knowing that his belief or disbelief will not change the fact. And what is true in the science of numbers is emphatically true in the Science of Being Christian Science is no person's opinion; no one's opinion is expressed in Divine Science. It includes and comprehends the vast infinity of Being, and rejects all that is unlike the one perfect Being that is God the absolute and only Good"

There was no silly worship or foolish adoration of Mrs. Eddy, but simply gratitude for her discovery of the Truth. The lecturer then

went on to argue that it was not mesmerism. Mesmerism meant that each person had a mind of his own; Christian Science showed that mortal sense was a non-reality and the testimony of the senses unreliable. God only was true, and every mortal a liar. The one Mind had power over the carnal mind; God was the only Mind, and the so-called individual mind only the carnal mind that must be corrected by the Divine mind. Instead of being mesmerism, Christian Science was just the opposite.

"For instead of teaching minds many it teaches one Mind, and that Mind, the Mind of God in whom is no evil, is no sickness, sin or death, which Mind must overcome and annihilate the mortal mind, as darkness is swallowed up of light. And Christian Scientists, instead of being mesmerists, are finding their way out of mesmerism (in which all the world is engulfed) out of the belief of minds many into the one Mind, the Mind that is God, where all so-called individual minds are swallowed up and lost in the one Divine Mind, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Christian Science teaches no such thing as sickness or disease, that sickness and disease are an illusion; not that it is hypochondria or imagination in the common acceptance of those terms, but that out in the great scientific fact of being, no such thing, is or can be found; that sickness or disease cannot properly be said to be a part of being. That being, in its scientific purity, is as free from sickness and disease now as it was possible for it to be, when being first began, or as it ever will be, when all seeming evil is swept away and His kingdom is come on earth. But, although Christian Science teaches no such things as sickness and disease, yet, to Christian Scientists there still is sickness and disease, they have not yet overcome; they are overcoming these claims, but for a Christian Scientist to say that to himself there is no sickness, or to say of himself that he knows no sickness, no disease, is to say what he has not yet proven, in all its forms, and for a Christian Scientist to say such a thing, is not only an error in itself but is a detriment to our cause. And no genuine student of Christian Science would ever say such a thing, especially after he has gotten over the period of enthusiasm and excitement, and gotten to look at Truth in a more reasonable and scientific way, and to use more wisdom in his thought and speech. A Christian Scientist often says there is no disease, the same as a mathematician may say that there is no error or mistake in the science of numbers, but he does not mean that he never makes an error or a mistake, or that he himself has gotten beyond the possibility of such a thing, no more does the Christian Scientist mean that he has gotten beyond sickness and disease in his own case. If he is earnest and honest he is demonstrating over these claims, daily and hourly, and will, if faithful, at last overcome and be given "To eat of the hidden manna"—. "And shall inherit all things." Christian Science seaches health and righteousness as the real, and sickness and evil as the unreal. And consequently, its teachings dwell more upon health than upon sickness, more upon the right than upon the wrong; it can write volumes upon health and holiness, but has very little to say about sickness and evil, except to consign it to oblivion."

As God did not create sin, there was no such thing as sin, and the same with disease. God could not be good and evil too; as He made no evil, evil was never made. Man in his true spiritual sense is as sinless and perfect and unchangeable as God. But that was not to say Christian Scientists had risen above sin and iniquity. They still sinned and were sorry. The more they realized its nothingness, the less they would yield to it. At the same time, that did not offer a licence to sin, for the sinner made a reality of sin, and if he sinned, must bear the consequences.

In conclusion the lecturer said God the Good could not create evil, therefore there was none. He did not make the sky, for there is no sky. He did not create matter, for there is no matter: mortal man and the material world had at no time any real existence; Christian Science was taught by Christ nineteen hundred years ago; it was absolute and final truth. "Christian Science teaches—"There is no matter." But does anyone for a moment suppose that to Christian Scientists there is no matter? If they had demonstrated up to that point, they would not be visible to mortal sense any more than Jesus was in what has been termed the ascension. Christian Scientists still eat and drink, and wear clothing, and live in houses and are visible to mortal sense like other people. They see, theoretically, that there is no matter, but they have by no means demonstrated it entirely. They do not take material medicines or physical treatment of any kind (as a rule) in time of sickness and suffering; they know that matter cannot heal disease, that nothing but Truth, Divine Mind, can overcome error of any kind. Christ the Exemplar, Jesus of Nazaret: did not use material means in healing disease. It was the power of the spirit with which He destroyed sickness as well as sin, although it is stated, and some are using it as an argument against Christian Scientists, that He put clay on the blind man's eyes when He healed him, But the wonderful lesson He was teaching His disciples in that demonstration was, that all men (mortal) are born blind, and cannot see until the clay of material sense is washed away by the cleansing waters of the spirit of Christ, and then they will see, and see clearly. Christian Scientists are finding more and more that food does not sustain life; that while they are eating so called material food it has no real life sustaining properties or qualities. Take for instance a piece of beefsteak that is carefully cooked until no life is left in it, before we eat it to save our life. If food could actually save life then no one could die with food in their stomach. Yet, Christian Scientists will never stop eating and drinking until they have demonstrated over it, and that will not be until they have demonstrated over the flesh and all mortality. But how long that will take, or when that will be accomplished. "No man knoweth, not the son but the Father." It would be the height of folly for anyone to stop eating, until by actual knowledge and practical demonstration he had proven that he could live without eating. Christian Science, like the scriptures, teaches "Wisdom is the principal thing; and it certainly would not be wise to jump from the pinnacle of the temple or do any other uncalled for or unnecessary thing. They do not stop the use of drug remedies until they have found by experience and actual knowledge that they have no real curative qualities, or health-producing properties. And Christian Scientists are learning more and more to let people alone until they have found this out, before they talk to them very much of the Christ cure.

Christian Science sounds the tocsin "There is no death." And St. Paul writes in his first letter to the Corinthians "The last enemy to be destroyed is death," and the revelator saw death and hell cast into the lake of fire. In his most wondrous vision he saw the "Tabernacle of God among men": and God should wipe away all tears from their eyes and there should be no more death. What ever is to be, with God, is done. Since therefore, there is to be a time when, death shall not be, in fact, there is no death to-day. What will ever be true in Truth, is a present, accomplished fact. What will ever be found to be not true is not true to-day. If ever there is to be a time when there will be no death, then there is no death to-day, and if there is a place anywhere in His presence where there is no death then there is no death anywhere, because He is everywhere, and there is no place where He is not. Death, therefore, is another error that Christ the Truth casts out. Jesus of Nazareth did not raise Lazarus from the dead simply to restore him to family and friends and a temporal life again, to suffer and die, and be mourned and lamented, but to show the power of truth to overcome error, to show that life was the master of death, that God could triumph over every evil, sickness, sin and death, and since, as the Bible declares that sin brought death into the world, therefore the overcoming of sin is the overcoming of death. And since sickness and sin are overcome by the same Christ power, therefore to the extent that sickness, or sin, is overcome by truth, to that extent is death overcome. Therefore, whenever Christian Scientists demonstrate over sickness or sin, either in themselves or others, they are overcoming death, and with the disappearance of sickness and sin, death will disappear, and be as though it had not been, as indeed it never was.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"CHRISTIAN SCIENCE."

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—I hope that you will allow me to correct two points in the first letter upon the subject of Christian Science in last Saturday's issue, as they do a considerable, though doubtless unintentional, injustice to a local Christian Science practitioner. The first is an allusion to her action in a certain case as "Wanton interference." I am able to state on unimpeachable authority that the patient herself appealed in her extremity for Christian Science treatment having heard of the practitioner's arrival in Hongkong from a mutual friend in England. Secondly your correspondent attributes deplorable results to the advice of the practitioner that the patient should visit England. The practitioner did not give this advice, nor was she at any time consulted about the matter, which was settled after the patient had been so much benefitted as to have dispensed with further treatment. I shall always regret that her friends in England did not trust her to the same divine power as, it is well known, had so miraculously raised her in Hongkong from a dying state to one of health and happiness.

I do not propose on this occasion to reply to "Cleek" by detailing the numerous instances in which I have myself been helped by Christian Science, but any of your readers who wish for information can attend the Wednesday evening services of the Society (5.30 p.m. York Building, Chater Road) which are held for the express purpose of hearing accounts of local work.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
S. T. DUNN,
President of the Christian Science Society of Hongkong.

Hongkong January 19th, 1908

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—In regard to the fact that the patient, or the husband, was asked to make a contribution to the C. S. Society, I would point out that the gratitude of a person "apparently" healed of cancer would desire to find expression, hence it is unlikely that the suggestion preceded the desire. Secondly, it is a recognised thing in Christian Science that help should be appreciated in some way, not from a financial point of view but as a sign of gratitude, and because help is sometimes better appreciated if it is paid for. I know that Scientists very often help patients without any reward, when they consider such to be the more loving course, or when there is the possibility of a money payment interfering with the recognition of indebtedness to the All-Love; further, that in the majority of cases the payment is more nominal than anything else. It was my necessity, soon after arrival in Hongkong, to need help from a practitioner in the Colony, and when that help had been most readily given, the offer of payment was refused, which I most strongly objected to upon the grounds that it was neither scientific nor right to prevent me showing my gratitude, especially as the truest gratitude in Science is impersonal. I am also aware of one instance where a practitioner made a gift of £20 to a Christian Science Church, or Society, while receiving payment of one dollar for help given.—Yours truly,

S. KINGSBURY.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

Kowloon, 20th January.

SIR,—Having read in your paper of the 18th inst. a letter re "Christian Science," I wish to add a little from personal knowledge.

I have a dear friend in Boston U.S. whose son, at the time 18 years of age, was kicked in the knee while playing football. It was a pretty bad accident, but after an examination by two Doctors they reported it as not very serious "*if well attended to*" and they recom-

mended his remaining in hospital until he fully recovered. His father and mother, being Christian Scientists, persuaded him to come home, which he did. They prayed over him and sent for their best and leading light of the C. S. Church who prayed and talked and etc. Result:—"the boy is lamed for life." Now remember this was in *Boston*, the centre of Christian Science. —Yours truly.

F. BROWNE.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—While I cannot vouch for the following, I believe the source of my information to be quite trustworthy. A friend of a friend of mine had a dislocated knee, and a local Christian-Science healer undertook to mend matters *on condition that the bandages were removed and further medical attentions dispensed with*. After a short interval of strenuous "thought," the healer told the patient to arise and walk. The patient obeyed, with the immediate result of a bad fall and a sprained ankle. The doctor had two places to bandage, and the patient had extra pain.—Yours truly.

T. N.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—As a student of the lore of the Hermetists, Hierophants, Cabalists, Esoteric Buddhists, and lately Christian-Scientists, I conclude that not any of your correspondents know what they are talking about. Mrs. Eddy is not a discoverer. Her central idea is as old as religion. The Indian Yogi has it, more clearly than she. Occult science shows that all matter is illusion, but Christian Science cannot cure or help anybody till he or she becomes Mahatma. All desire must be eliminated, or meddling makes disaster. The potentiality of the will is immense. So an evil-disposed Christian Scientist could "ill-wish" a person, and give a healthy person disease, just as easily as he or she can cure disease, which I admit.—Yours truly.

D. S. G.

[We require no more "occult science." Future letters, unless exceptional, must be confined to actual cases of cures or failures.—Ed.]

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—Mr. May's letter on this subject was a statement of facts. Mr. Dunn's "corrections" thereto lead me to write that the patient did not appeal for C.S. treatment. A friend of the patient wrote and told her the "practitioner" referred to was coming to Hongkong, and that she had asked her to call on her (the patient). A friend, to whom the "practitioner" had a letter of introduction, took her to call on the patient. There was never any appeal for this from the patient, 'in her extremity' or at any time. What happened during that interview I do not know, as the patient's family was not allowed to be present. The second point is much more important. It is not true that the visit to England was decided upon after the patient had so much benefitted as to have dispensed with further treatment. Mr. Dunn's reference to restored "health and happiness" is absolute rot. The patient was going about looking like one already dead, after all the "treatment." The cruel nature of C. S. influence is apparent in the fact that it was after the patient had been to a Sunday meeting of the C. S. that she came home and said, "I am going home by next French mail," which was on the next Tuesday. "The practitioner says you" (members of patient's family) "are an evil influence, and that she can do no more for me, so I am going Home to consult some one with higher power." Appeals to her to remain with her family failed, and she left as stated, never again to have communication with those who loved her. Mr. Dunn's statement that she was miraculously raised from her dying state to one of health and happiness is untrue. The patient was roused from lethargy to a state of "never say die," and if the C. S. people had left it at that, she might have been happy for a while longer. Health she certainly never regained, and I know for an absolute fact that medical treatment continued to be necessary, although, owing to the peculiar way the "practitioner" made her believe black to be white, she thought not. After a week's 'treatment" in England, she said in distress, 'Send these people away. They have never done me any good." The specialist who first attended her was called, came promptly, and cared for her to the end. If she had not at the last seen through the humbug, so far as the treatment of disease is concerned, I hate to think what she would have gone through.

Yours truly.

E. BRUCE SHEPHERD.

[In the light of painful facts like these, we repeat our warning that "Christian Science," so far as it meddles with health and disease, is a menace to society. Argument with people who deny the plainest meaning of plain English is wasted, but for the public benefit we may point out:

(1) C. S. practitioners claim power to heal the sick, absent or present, believing or unbelieving.

(2) If they had cured the lady referred to in the above letter, they would have bragged of it, and cited her as one in the last stages of cancer, "given up" by the medical profession. Mr. May mentioned that the doctor held out no hope; Mr. Dunn claimed a (temporary) miraculous restoration.

(3) Two "healers" failed. The patient suffered much unnecessary pain, that the doctors could have mitigated. To the sorrow of the natural bereavement was added (entirely owing to the misguided meddling of C. S.) the pain of loneliness and separation and expense.

If this case does not illustrate the intolerable mischief of the C. S. delusion, for every sane person who reads it, our efforts have been wasted. But are they to be wasted? We call upon the Government, in the name of humanity and commonsense, to draw a distinction between religion and medicine, and to take such immediate steps as will protect the credulous from such dangerous "practitioners." No pious belief, no motive however sincere, entitles anyone to do such harm and to go untouched of responsibility.—Ed.]

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

Hongkong, January 21st

SIR,—Mr. Dunn speaks with an entirely satisfied conviction of the certainty of C. S. cures. I should say that no follower of Mrs. Mary Baker G. Eddy will dispute the statement that the healing forces of Christian Science reside in her to the utmost possible. A sister-in-law of hers, a Mrs. May Anne Baker, living in Boston, for whom she professed a deep affection, was afflicted with cancer in the breast, and after seven years of suffering, died in 1902. Mrs. Eddy took great interest in this case; she induced Mrs. Baker to submit to Christian Science treatment, and herself selected a special healer, no doubt also exerting her full personal healing power, but to no purpose. Death claimed his due in spite of all. Now, how was it that in this case, having cured for hire, at one visit, the virulent case I mentioned on Monday, she could do nothing to check the disease? Of course her convinced believers will say that Mrs. Baker did not persevere (having given up the treatment) to the end, but what becomes of the one visit! We hear much assertion of cures here and there but little but assertion. Personally I am convinced that Christian Science has never cured a proved case of cancer. Thanks to the student of the etceteras for so graciously putting us all "just there." He is right about Mrs. Eddy; she is not a discoverer and her central idea is (not Yogi pidgin) but an old doctor named Quimby of Portland Maine, who imagined a system, from the manuscript of which, still in existence, she plagiarized, and in its amended state called it "Christian Science." But it was a little ungrateful on her part when she was learning for her to say, that "he healed as Jesus did," and when she had got all she could from him, to describe his "healing," as nothing but "mesmerism."—I am, &c.

C. V. LLOYD.

[We have received a letter giving interesting details of a miraculous case at Shanghai, but the writer has not sent his name and address, as required by the rules.]

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SIR.—Being an unconvertible unbeliever in "Christian Science," I have read the articles and correspondence on this subject with great interest, and consider that you deserve the thanks of this Community and in fact of all right-thinking men and women everywhere for the exposure this clap-trap, self-advertising, hysterical, bosh has received in your columns.

I read the other day in a "Christian Science" publication, a letter from a woman in which she said she had been severely burnt about the face neck and breast, and that by Faith (and some technical C. S. terms I did not understand) the pain ceased instantaneously and in less than two hours all marks of burns had disappeared with the exception of one small blister. Is any one cracked enough to expect that any sane individual can swallow such a palpable lie? I suspect that the "one small blister" constituted the full extent of the severe burns, the rest being supplied by the usual C. S. hysteria and fertile imagination. Will Dr. Fluno let someone publicly baptise him on Thursday with *boiling oil*, and then demonstrate to the meeting that he felt no pain, and that no marks result therefrom?

I am told that a local "healer" says he was knocked down and run over whilst cycling in London by a lorry; the lorry which weighed never so many tons went over his arm—and his bicycle. Faith etc., left no pain or marks so far as his arm was concerned, but what, oh! what happened to the bike? Why did Faith etc., not straighten out the squashed tubing, and bent spokes and inflate the deflated tyres? I could almost have believed the yarn if the bicycle, the poor innocent bike, had been treated for its injuries by the same method and recovered as miraculously as the arm.

In the absence of any response to your invitation on the part of the "healers" to mention any local *cure*, and in view of the *unimpeachable evidence* given by Mr. May and Mr. Bruce-Shepherd of the deplorable result of ignorant meddling in the said case to which they refer, it would be interesting if you could give a condensed account of the recent case in England which caused such a sensation of genuine horror as is seldom seen. I mean the case in which an Army Officer was healed after an accident in the hunting field, I believe, by "Christian Science" methods, and eventually died a lingering and painful death from bedsores. A prosecution followed but unfortunately the quack was let off and escaped earthly punishment.

It is high time that this "wanton interference in the treatment of sickness should be made a most serious criminal offence. Let these people have their religious services by all means, but let them stick to that and that alone.

Thanking you for what you are doing for humanity in shewing up this humbug.

I am &c.,
Yours faithfully
NO SCIENTIST.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

22nd January, 1908.

SIR,—May I add a word on "Christian Science" just now very much in evidence?

The "Morning Post" of to-day quotes an article from a home magazine in which Lord Dunmore—there is always a Lord or Lady in these new fads—joined the sect because a rupture given up by specialists (usual sneer at the medical profession) was cured.

Either this gentleman was a liar or he never had a rupture, as anyone with the slightest knowledge of a rupture would know that it can only be cured by (a) a miracle or (b) surgical operation, and I do not gather there was any question of a miracle.

As a religion I have nothing to say against this form. There are already 100 odd religions and one more or less doesn't seem to matter.

As a method of treatment however there is more to be said. If any intelligent man chooses to think that medicine is not a science and that all the study put into it is worthless and that medical men are liars and rogues, which is what "Christian Science" makes them out to be, he

is welcome to his opinion and I see no reason why he should not be allowed to have his ailments treated by a quack any more than he should not be allowed to commit suicide if he chooses to do so; but in the case of helpless children this is far otherwise and I beg to protest against this quackery on their behalf. They are helpless and they are state assets and no one should be allowed to have such power even over their own children.

"Tar and feathers" is far too good for a parent who—as happened in England a short time ago—allows a child to die of diphtheria with no other treatment than prayers by some old woman.—Yours faithfully.

J. BELL.

[Dr. Bell writes as strongly as we have done, and we submit not without excuse. Readers will remember it was for the child assets of the race that we first pleaded.—Ed.]

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

Hongkong, 22nd January 1908.

SIR,—I have read with much interest in this morning's issue of your paper Mr Bruce Shepherd's reply to Mr. Dunn's "corrections" and feel compelled—considering the importance of the discussion now going on—to place before your readers who are interested in the subject the following:—Some two and a half or three years ago, a cousin of mine had a little daughter who had the misfortune to fall down stairs and break her arm. Her father, notwithstanding the protests of his wife, refused to allow a medical man to set the injured limb or attend her in any way, but called in the leaders of the Christian Science movement there, (he himself having been a convert for some years). The child under their ministrations showed no signs of improvement but became worse, having in the meantime developed a high fever. These people thereupon called to headquarters in the States for "special prayers" on her behalf, with no better results. By this time the child was in a pitiable condition. These facts came to the knowledge of R.S.P.C.C. whose representative promptly investigated the matter, with the result that the father was brought before the Stipendary Magistrate in the Manchester Police Court and sentenced to imprisonment without the option of a fine. Medical assistance was then summoned. The bone, which had knitted in the meantime, had to be re-broken and re-set. This child had to endure much unnecessary suffering. The foregoing are actual facts, within my knowledge. If Mr. Dunn or his "followers," wish for further proofs, I can give the names of the parties concerned.—Yours truly,

E. J.

[By a remarkable coincidence, a Manchester man in the Colony had just informed us of the above case when this letter arrived. The two stories in all points tallied. These are the sort of facts we want widely circulated, though it is to be hoped there are not many Hongkong parents who need such warnings.—Ed.]

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

RE SPITTING BYE-LAWS.

Hongkong, 22nd January 1908.

SIR,—Would not a much smaller fine than the suggested $5 be more reasonable on the poorer classes of Chinese and other aliens when seen spitting just where they please?

These poor and uneducated classes know nothing of the unsanitary evils and their concomitants caused by this dirty habit of spitting against walls, woodwork etc. there to remain, as is too often the case, from a few days before Chinese New Year until the approach of the next New Year.

With regard to the sanitary state in our European quarters, one has only to look at the corridors of our business houses, more especially noticeable when lifts are stopped for repairs, and one has to ascend the stairs of these buildings. The walls, woodwork and staircases are, in 75 cases out of a hundred, in a condition much to be deplored by all lovers of cleanliness.

If this new measure is to be enforced let it be hoped that it will at first be gradually made known to the Chinese and others through the agency of the Chinese Press and by Chinese circulars posted throughout the Colony.

A Sanitary Officer whose duty takes him through numbers of houses and offices every week could easily make notes of dirty houses or blocks of offices specially offensive in this respect, and on his next return visit, if no improvement had taken place in the meantime, then recommend the occupants to be dealt with according to the Byelaws.

In all such cases of non-compliance a fine would not only be justifiable but would do an immense amount of good towards wiping out this filthy nuisance.

Possibly something similar to the above is already being done; therefore, I should much regret if this reference to the question is taken in a dogmatical sense.

The long chain of history connected with the most trying years of experience in sanitation, to say nothing of the financial outlay of the past, has surely taught us the valuable lesson that any attempt to enforce such a new measure for the better health of the Colony, without first making it generally known as suggested above, would obviously be unfair to the lower class of people.—Yours truly.

P. HALL.

EVOLUTION OF HONGKONG.

[Written for the *Hongkong Daily Press*]

(Continued from last Tuesday.)

XVII

Lord Elgin had not learned the first lesson of diplomacy, never to believe without tangible evidence what is being told to him. As the force was approaching Chanchia Wan the Chinese commanders all at once put on a sympathetic air, and offered their services in selecting a suitable camping place. Elgin, as befitted his character, would have accepted the offer unconditionally, but Sir Hope Grant more cautious thought he would have a little reconnaissance to his surprise he lighted on a strong Tartar picket, which suspiciously retired on his appearance, but he saw strong bodies of cavalry carefully posted in the hollow ground about, and disturbed a number of banner bearing infantry. An ambush had been carefully prepared, and Elgin with his whole army would have quietly walked into it. But the plot had already gone too successful. Parker, Loch and a number of officers attached to the intelligence staff, had been sent ahead to negotiate with a number of Chinese civil officials at Tungchow, but a couple of miles away, and had been treacherously seized, and made prisoners with their escort; thence they were taken on to Peking, cast into the common jail and put to the torture, under which the greater number succumbed. Lord Elgin was temporarily converted, but Prince Kung, brother to the Emperor, being appointed to negotiate, the old farce recommenced during the progress of which most of the prisoners perished miserably. Even at the end, through the weakness of Lord Elgin, though Peking was at the mercy of the allied forces it was never occupied, but left intact as an everlasting memorial, till 1901 at least, of how a high British diplomatist, with the bull at his feet, could yet be cajolled into allowing himself at the last move to be checkmated by so innocent looking a novice as Prince Kung.

But though Lord Elgin had thus at the last moment in his softness of heart allowed himself to be openly robbed of the most important fruit of the whole expedition, he showed himself much on a par with his opponents when in face with a question concerning the arts of civilisation. He who's heart was too tender to require the punishment of the officials who had tortured his countrymen to death, stood calmly by while the torch was applied to the Palace of the Yuen min gyuen, where were stored the priceless and irrecoverable treasures of centuries. True the plunder was commenced under a French officer, but Lord Elgin knew well beforehand what was in the wind; and a word from him would have averted the greatest crime against civilisation at large of the century.

However a lesson severe enough to impress itself upon Peking for a generation had at last been delivered; China for some time was tractable, and in a halting shuffling sort of way began trying to accommodate herself to the inevitable. She would have been quicker and saved herself much after humiliation had Great Britain remembered herself the lesson of the war. She did not, Lord Elgin was followed by a series of dilettanti, each as feeble and weak-kneed as himself, till at last even the stoutest began to lose heart. Still there was no recurrence for forty years of barbarities, such as the tortures of Husiwu or the burning of the Summer Palace to be revenged on either side. Fortunately a new generation has now arisen for whom these things are but history, and after a new lesson there are undoubted signs of a desire on the part of China to break away from her bad past. Whether it may arrive soon enough to avoid her final extinction as a power in Asia, is the question of the day.

But as we commenced with Hongkong with it must we finish. The separation of the Colony from the affairs of China and the British Empire generally had on the despatch of Lord Elgin's Mission, and the removal of head quarters to the capital become a matter of necessity, irrespective of the manner in which the colonial government was administered; but, as we have seen, the government had not been well administered, and had become, as Lord Russell at the time is said to have designated it, an Augean Stable. New men, and new methods, now that the Colony was once and for all divorced from the seat of the Minister, had become a necessity. Hercules Robinson, who had served with credit some minor colonial governorships, and was at the time Governor of St. Christopher and the Leeward Islands, was selected for the post and arrived in September 1859. No better choice could have been made. On the appointment, to give him more eclat, he had been knighted, but he needed no extraneous title to assist him in his work. Suffice it to say, under his rule, and fortunately unfettered by Chinese traditions, the island, now become a true Colony, commenced to advance. The opening of trade consequent on the new treaty, and the general advancement of China from north to south, began at last to tell in favour of the Colony. Old feuds were healed and Hongkong no longer troubled with the quarrels of parties nor individuals put out her latent strength. Though she had now a separate and distinct existence alongside China, yet not of it, and advancing with every step in China's prosperity, she yet was in a position to take advantage of its proximity.

In consequence, so far from harbouring the fear of being at no distant period shut out from participation in the commerce of the world, she now is able to boast of being almost the equal in point of shipping of the largest ports and has direct steam communication with nearly every shipping port under the sun.

This is the moral of our story; needlessly long perhaps, but well deserving to be studied and acted on as long as great Britain lives up to her tradition, and remains a great Power in the Pacific, so long must Hongkong continue to grow in wealth and prestige.—Long may she continue faithful to the traditions of Empire.

THE END.

We learn that the Hamburg-Amerika Linie is withdrawing from the Far Eastern passenger business. The ships of the "Rhenania" class are therefore likely to be replaced on the run by others built entirely for freight service.

H.I.H Prince Hiroyasu Fushimi of Japan attended by Lieut. J. Kiyokawa, A.D.C., arrived in the Colony yesterday by the steamer "Hakata Maru." The young prince is a commander in the Japanese navy, and was wounded in an engagement during the war. He is bound for England where he is to undergo a course of study for three years. Yesterday invitations for an official dinner of 52 had been issued and over 500 invitations had been prepared for a reception afterwards in his honour. As, however, His Imperial Highness is travelling as a private individual, the dinner has been cancelled and the invitations to the reception not sent out. He continues his journey to England, by the same ship, at daybreak on Wednesday, the 22nd instant. The ship was met on arrival yesterday morning, by Capt. Taylor, A.D.C. and Capt. Fleming, extra A.D.C.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Jan. 21st at the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (president) presided, and there were also present Hon. Mr. W. Chatham (Vice-President), Dr. F. Clark, (Medical Officer of Health), Hon. Mr A. W. Brewin (Registrar-General), Captain Lyons (Captain Superintendent of Police), Colonel Martin, R.A.M.C, Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Mr. Lau Chu-pak, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock, secretary.

RAT CATCHING.

The reply from the Government relative to the rat catching system was as under:—Sir, I am directed to inform you that the question under which rats are caught in connection with the measures for the prevention of plague has been under the consideration of the Government, and I am to transmit for the consideration of the Sanitary Board the enclosed copies of minutes by the Medical Officer of Health and the Principal Civil Medical Officer, together with the accompanying tables of statistics showing the results of the labours of the staff employed in the catching of rats, together with the statement of the cost of the staff. I am also to enclose a copy of a minute by His Excellency the Governor in which this question, with others, is commented on. In view of the figures contained in the first and second paragraphs of the P. .M.O's minute above referred to, and the statement therein that "the first cases of rat plague are generally in houses—the rest are dumped e.g.—in Elgin Road the first two cases occurred in houses followed by eleven thrown out," the Government would be glad to learn whether in the opinion of the Sanitary Board effect could be given to the suggestions of Dr. Clark. (Sd) F. H. May, Colonial Secretary.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH minuted—There are 14 rat catching coolies now employed, while some portion of the time of the coloured foremen interpreters of the plague staff is given to the supervision of these coolies. I have for many months past been convinced that in this Colony at least the rat catchers are not worth retaining. They are a source of irritation to the Chinese, who resort to every method of stultifying their work—such as by springing off the traps, turning the bird lime boards upside down, or hanging them up in inaccessible positions, and if perchance a rat is caught it is usually flung into the roadway and opposite a neighbour's house rather than opposite the house where it was caught or had died. We cannot hope to make an appreciable impression upon the enormous rat population that lives underground—in sewers, storm drains, retaining walls and burrows, and hence I think that our efforts should be directed wholly to excluding rats from dwellings. This we do by requiring concreted ground surfaces, in the provision of gratings to all drain inlets and ventilated openings, the abolition, as far as possible, of ceilings and hollow walls, and the regular collection of garbage so as to leave as little food as possible available for these vermin. I would not abolish rat catching altogether, but would make this merely a small part of the ordinary duty of the plague inspector who should supply rat traps and poison and bird lime boards on application by any householder, and otherwise only apply these measures when specially directed by one of the Medical Officers of Health. This would dispense with the necessity for any special rat catching staff. I am glad to see that only within the last two or three months Dr. Ashburton Thompson has expressed similar views on plague Dr. Thompson is a well known authority on plague. *D nyss virus* has not so far proved a success in this Colony.

The PRINCIPAL CIVIL MEDICAL OFFICER—From the lists attached it will be seen that in Victoria 208 plague infected rats were found in houses during 1906, and in Kowloon 50. In twelve of these cases in Victoria plague has followed and in two in Kowloon, but rat plague has been followed by human plague in adjoining houses in five more cases in Kowloon, namely:

Rat plague.	*Human plague.*
69 Station Street	71 Station Street.
14 Temple Street North	10 Temple Street North.
14 Temple Street South	12 Temple Street South.
18 and 21 Austin Road	10, 20 and 23 Austin Rd.
27 Elgin Road.....	28 Elgin Road.

Austin and Elgin Roads have houses in consecutive numbers; the others have even numbers on one side and odd numbers on the other; also see the return of rats found in streets in Victoria, which have been followed by cases occurring in houses. Dr. Macfarlane's experience is that the first cases of rat plague are generally in houses; the rest are dumped, e.g. in Elgin Road the first two cases occurred in houses followed by eleven thrown out. Acting on this he has turned the general cleansing gang on the whole block if infected rats were being found thrown out. People do not mind the general cleansing, whereas special rat cleansing alarms them. Infected rats thrown into the street are of very considerable value if the general cleansing is done after them, as even if a rat be found in one particular house it does not necessarily follow that it has always lived there.

Mr. HOOPER - It is satisfactory to note that the M.O.H. in his minute confirms the view expressed in the report of the Public Health and Building Ordinance Commission (see paragraphs 160 to 170 and 241). I should like to see what Dr Ashburton Thompson, who is quoted by the Medical Officer of Health, says on the subject of rat catching. I quite agree with His Excellency the Governor in his minute (No. 2 C) that it would be well if every householder kept a cat, but there is a great difficulty in this Colony to do it as they are very often stolen, I believe, for the purpose of being eaten by the natives. If a reward is given for the capture of rats it must be small Further particulars about "rattin" ought to be obtained from our local druggists. I cannot agree that the present system of compelling funnels to be placed on the cables connecting ships with wharves is of any use because, as a rule, gangway boards are placed from the wharves to the ship for the use of passengers and crew, so that a rat can always have access to the ship, and even when these boards are not in use the fenders and guards of a ship are in contact with the wharf, thereby affording easy access to the rats at all times to enter or leave the ship. On this point further evidence should be taken from the captains of ships. His Excellency's suggestion contained in paragraph 4 for measures to train the common people, and the establishment of street committees, I consider to be very good, and I believe would lead to excellent results With regard to His Excellency's suggestion about the emigration of Chinese from congested districts in Victoria to Kowloon, I regret to say that whilst it would be most beneficial, judging from past experience, I do not believe the Chinese would avail themselves of the opportunities offered, as they object to living so far from the seat of their labour. This is born out I consider, by the large number of vacant tenements in the east portion of Victoria at lower rentals than obtain in the congested districts, notwithstanding the fact also that the tenements referred to are easily and quickly accessible by tram. Although the minute of H.E. the Governor and those of the P.C.M.O and M.O.H. are circulated confidentially I consider better results would be obtained by making them as public as possible. I trust the Government will have no objection to this being done.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—I think the Government should be asked to publish these papers. His Excellency's minute is specially worthy of consideration by the community.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—It has long been known that rat catching in the way it has been conducted could never give a successful result, and will only set the people against the efforts of the board so long as it is continued. Unless the Chinese are taught to co-operate it is simply a waste of money. I entirely endorse His Excellency the Governor's remarks that additional and practical means should be substituted for the old, costly and drastic measures. Why is this marked confidential?

The Minute by His Excellency was as follows:—After a careful study of these papers I am inclined to agree that the special rat catching staff should be abolished on the grounds that they irritate the people who do their utmost to render their work nugatory and useless. I am myself convinced that there is only one solution to this question, and that is to enlist the sympathy and co-operation of the people on the side of plague preventive measures, to give them all the assistance which the Government can do (a) by the application of scientific discoveries (b) by useful and practical regulations on the lines of their own efforts. The extermination of rats is no doubt one of the necessary anti-plague measures, but the rat catcher gang prevents the main object in view by irritating the people and setting them against us, and I therefore think that other methods should be substituted for it. We have not here to deal with the prejudices of caste as in India, and the structure of houses is (as the M.O.H, points out) vastly better, our task therefore is immeasurably lighter than the one in India, and I see no reason at all why we should not completely succeed. The methods suggested as regards rats are (a) additional safeguards in the matter of drains, etc. (b) Relegation to plague inspectors who supply rat traps, poison, bird lime, on application, and will only personally apply these measures if especially directed to do so. Are there any other methods by which co-operation can by promoted? I suggest the following for discussion. (c) Some special inducement to every householder to keep a cat, such inducement might take the form of partial immunity from certain regulations. (d) Reward for the capture of "Mus Rattus" (not "Decumanus.") This I am aware is a dangerous experiment and the rewards (if any, must be so small that it would not be worth while for anyone to import rats from Canton?—However all rats brought for claiming the reward would at least be destroyed, and we should very soon know whether any improper methods of getting them were being resorted to (Note—In a subsequent minute His Excellency cancelled the suggestion of granting rewards.) (e) The most extended use of rat poison. I recently saw in the "Merchant Service Journal"(?) a description of a new invention named "Rattin" which claimed the following:—(a) Poisoned vermin always come out to die in the open; (b) it was almost absolutely harmless to any other animal. I regret I have lost the number. (f) More extended experiments with *Danysz virus*. (3) The introduction of rats from other places more especially places where plague is prevalent is a matter to be especially guarded against, and in the matter Hongkong has peculiar difficulties. I read in these papers of an arrangement fastened on all cables connecting ships with shore to prevent rats traversing them. Is this invariably done? Whose duty is it to see that it is? And what penalties for neglect? This however, even if effectively carried out, does not touch the large number of trading junks coming from Canton, etc., and to be seen daily moored alongside the wharf at Victoria East, etc. Is it possible to devise any method of stopping rats from coming ashore from these junks? Either by causing them to sever connection at night or by a ledge of tin at right angles to the Praya Wall (some six inches broad) which a rat could not surmount or by compelling junks to use traps and poison? (It is I believe a fact that a rat cannot or will not cross a small belt of chopped thorns or similar impediment.) (4) While on this subject I will take the opportunity of making one or two further notes on the subject in general. (a) We have here many intelligent and public spirited Chinese gentlemen who at their own expense have paid lecturers to address the common people in the streets and explain to them the motives of Government in its sanitary and anti plague measures, and to endeavour to enlist their cooperation. Such a step is I think altogether invaluable and should be supported in every way by Government pecuniarly, if necessary, and also by drawing up a set of simple lectures to be translated into Chinese. Those can be distributed largely among the people and also delivered orally. They should be couched in very simple language informing them of the outbreak in India and our consequential study of conditions and remedies, of the influence of rats and not flies, of the use and object of disinfection, of the value of light and air as shown by the freedom of Europeans from plague, of the object of each Government remedy even though great expense has been incurred, some odium and some depreciation of values, etc. A record of the number of lectures delivered, and whether they are

listened to, etc., should be kept, and suggestions from Chinese gentlemen invited as to how to make them more popular and to attract the populace I would gladly attend one or two large meetings myself. (b) I understood that the Chinese gentry had it in contemplation to establish "Street Committees" consisting of the most influential and intelligent of the persons living in each street. In their hands would be the duty of preventing "dumping" of bodies, sanitation, rate-catching, etc., etc. Such a movement is also I think excellent and I should like to know whether it has fructuated and what means lies in the power of the Government (or possibly of myself personally) to render it attractive to men to come forward to serve on such committees, and to recognise their efforts. (c) It seems to me that a useful object would be served if emigration from the congested districts of Victoria to town sites at Kowloon could be promoted by Government offering special facilities at the latter. (d) A great festival and procession in a month or so, would it be possible to include among the emblematic cars and effigies an antiplague design (similar to the cars in the Lord Mayor's show). My suggestions are not heroic and are mostly homely. We have I hope arrived at the stage in which some educational and practial means may be substituted for the more costly and drastic measures which are necessary when a great epidemic breaks out. Resumptions, evacuation, quarantine, and drastic cleansing depreciate property, dislocate trade and squander revenue. With the decrease in plague and the good results achieved by former action I hope such remedies as I suggest may suffice.

The SECRETARY said that members of the Board would remember it had been decided to ask the Government for permission to publish these papers. That permission had since been obtained.

SPITTING BYELAWS.

A report by the committee appointed to consider the matter of the spitting byelaws was read, in which they made the following recommendations:

1. No person shall spit in any part of any building, if such part is or may be used in common by two or more tenants of separate portions of such building, except in a back yard, lavatory, latrine or urinal or other place specially provided for the purpose.

2. No person shall spit in any part of any bakehouse, dairy, aerated water factory, fruit preserving establishment, library, museum or Government building or compound, except in a backyard, lavatory, latrine, urinal or other place specially provided for the purpose.

3. Any person who shall contravene any of the provisions of these byelaws shall be liable on summary conviction before a magistrate to a penalty not exceeding $10.

The report was signed by Mr. H. Humphreys, Captain F. W. Lyons and Dr. F. Clark.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK minuted—How are these byelaws to be carried out in Chinese tenement houses, almost all of which are used in common by more than two tenants? Fruit preserving establishments and bakehouses include restaurants and cooking shops? So far as I understand, the officers of the Sanitary Board or the police will be empowered by these by-laws to give every Chinaman in charge that they shall happen to see spit in his own house or Chinese public place of meeting. I cannot lend my support to the resolution. It is not true that "practically every Chinaman spits." The better class of Chinese also dislike the habit. When they want to spit as it must be admitted every man must spit, they use spittoons or handkerchiefs. It is only the lower class who spit at random for want of such articles. In teaching manners Chinese parents of the better class always warn their children not to spit in the presence of their elders, even when in every day life they see their children spit they object, not because of any hygienic reason which they do not understand, but because in their superstition the blessings in store for their children would be reduced. I am therefore not opposing on behalf of the better class. As to the lower class who form the bulk of the population it is they who will feel the sting of these byelaws when adopted. What they have been made to suffer by sanitary measures all these years is well known. While we are just sitting down to moderate such measures to gain their confidence it is certainly not wise to talk of increasing the powers of the Board's officers by allowing them to prosecute the majority of Chinese inhabitants, not on account of any criminal offence, but simply because they are spitting in their own houses and among their own people. Should legislation be recommended to go so far? If these byelaws are made to apply only to European dwelling houses, offices, public vehicles, chairs and government buildings, I would raise no objection in such cases. It is only right that the Chinese should be taught how to behave themselves, but still the fine is heavy. I think $5 is a sum big enough for coolies to pay.

The REGISTRAR GENERAL—Is a spittoon included in the term "other place"? What is the exact authority under the Ordinance for these byelaws?

The PRESIDENT—These byelaws are proposed to be made under section 16, sub-sections 16, 17, 19, 20, 30 and 35.

The PRESIDENT read the proposed byelaws.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK stated that Chinese houses were all occupied by more than two tenants.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL said the byelaws really made people in Chinese houses lawbreakers

Hon. Mr. HEWETT remarked that whereas there were about 1000 death a year from consumption amongst the Chinese of the Colony, there was only about one death per year amongst the European population that was traceable to that disease.

The VICE PRESIDENT thought the best thing would perhaps be to refer the report back to the committee.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—I would like to see the American act dealing with the matter.

The PRESIDENT—That is being obtained for members.

Mr. HOOPER said an act dealing with spitting was in force in Australia, and that too ought to be obtained for the information of the committee.

The report was referred back to the committee.

THE SANITARY STAFF

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH reported as follows with regard to the reductions of the Sanitary Staff:—I have the honour to inform you that inspectors Murphy, Willis and Sutherland returned to the police on January 1st. A further reduction is due to the recent vacancies not having been filled. I have, in accordance with your instructions, arranged for the abolition of the special duties of the senior inspectors, and also the prosecuting inspectors, and now have one inspector only in each district of the city who is directly responsible to me for the sanitary condition of the houses in his district. The scavenging work of the city is to be divided between three inspectors (one of whom is at present on leave) and the remaining two are carrying out the duties. A similar arrangement has been made in Kowloon, whereby one inspector undertakes the supervision of the scavenging work, while the two district inspectors report direct to Dr. Macfarlane, and are responsible for the sanitary condition of the houses in their respective districts.

Mr. HOOPER—I am pleased to note that the recommendations of the Commission with regard to this part of the staff are being given effect to. What has been done about the abolition of the office of market inspector?

The PRESIDENT—The post of one market inspector has been abolished, and the sanitary maintenance of the market is supervised by the district inspectors

The PRESIDENT said the Government hoped to introduce a new Ordinance and the whole of the proposed changes would then be fully explained to members

Mr. HOOPER—Has the market inspector been abolished? I notice in the *China Mail* of the 17th of this month a market list signed C. W. Brett, market inspector.

The PRESIDENT—I think that is an oversight

Mr. HOOPER—It is strange that we find a man signing official documents and supplying them to the newspapers in this way if the position has been abolished. Having called your attention to the matter I will leave it with you, and if there is any irregularity you will have it righted. It is rather a curious proceeding.

THE CATTLE BYELAWS.

Correspondence was submitted relative to the amendment of the cattle byelaws. An additional byelaw was proposed to be made under section 16 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, as follows: "The drenching of any animal with any substance whatever in a Government depôt, except with the permission of the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon or Inspector on duty is prohibited."

The PRESIDENT minuted—The Colonial Veterinary Surgeon had better attend the meeting of the Board when this is discussed.

The proposed new byelaw was adopted by the Board.

PLANS AND THE BUILDING ORDINANCE.

Mr. R. Brotherton Harker applied for exemption from the requirements of section 180 of the Public Health and Building Ordinance 1903, in respect to Kowloon City lot No. 5301. The latter stated that his client had plans prepared for the erection of the houses, which were afterwards altered to comply with the Ordinance mentioned. These alterations were shown by red lines and figures on the orignal plans. The work of construction was entrusted to a contractor who carried it out without any professional supervision, the result being that he had adhered to the old dimensions. His client would be pleased to hand to the Government free of compensation the scavenging lanes if the Board would recommend it being allowed; the provision of open spaces to the buildings to remain as they now are with the exception of certain alterations shown.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—This appears to be yet another case where work has been carried out before the plans have been passed, and an attempt is now being made to induce the Government to grant exemption in order to make illegal buildings legal. I adhere to my original view that in cases of this sort someone should be prosecuted. If the existing law is inadequate it should be amended In any case the matter shall be represented by the Sanitary Board to the Government.

The VICE PRESIDENT suggested that this matter stand over till the next meeting when further information would probably be available.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT thought they should take a definite vote on the point he had raised in his minute. It was simply a trick on the part of certain architects, landed proprietors and landed owners, and it was done with the utmost effrontery. He thought they ought certainly to record their opinion and direct the attention of the Government to the matter. If the law was inadequate to deal with the case and there was to be a new Building Ordinance, then these cases ought to be provided for.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said that in this case a plan had been submitted, but there was some deficiency in regard to the open space that was afterwards provided for and new plans were submitted, but the owner in carrying out the work had adopted the original plans instead of adopting the amended plans.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—I'm quite aware of that. Plans have been passed but the house has been built in accordance with plans that were not accepted.

Mr. HOOPER said it seemed to him that they had no jurisdiction in the matter. It was not an offence against the Board, but against the Building Authority over whom the Board had no control whatever, but who was armed with sufficient powers to do what he thought proper in the matter With regard to Mr. Hewett's suggestion that the Government be asked whether the law was strong enough to deal with such a case, and in the event of it not being so that the new Ordinance should contain sufficient powers to meet the case, he (Mr. Hooper) thought that such remarks would come better from Mr. Hewett in his place in the Legislative Council.

Hon. Mr HEWETT—What I do as a member of the Legislative Council is my own business. Mr Hooper unfortunately has thought fit to be somewhat personal.

Mr. HOOPER—Oh, no.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—I think the President would have been within his rights to bring Mr. Hooper to order, but he did not do so, and I have done so on my own account. I think we would be perfectly justified as a Board in

directing the attention of the Government to these breaches of the law, and I move to that effect.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—I second the proposal.

On the matter being put to the vote there were four in favour and three against.

G DOWN COMPANY'S COOLIE QUARTERS.

n application was received relative to the coolie quart rs at the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co. Ld. Hon. Mr. E. Osborne, secretary to the Company wrote: In view of our coolie quarters having no cubicles I have the honour to apply for permission to house them on a basis of 30 feet floor area and 400 feet cubic space as was done formally. I understand the Board has power to grant this permission.

The SECRETARY minuted—The Board cannot grant permission, and can only allow such an arrangement by not taking action under section 46. A precedent for this was laid down in the case of the Hongkong Club.

The ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH minuted—I think that people who have no cubicles on their floor reserve should have some compensation especially in cases where there is thorough ventilation, as there is in these quarters; but 30 square feet per head seems rather too little taking the ordinary floor which at present accommodates ten persons. If 30 square feet per head were allowed this floor would hold 16 persons, which is too many. If a reduction from 50 square feet to 40 square feet was allowed in this case, then the floor would hold 12 persons, which would be all right. I certainly would rather have a floor with 12 persons on it and no cubicles than a similar floor with ten persons or even less and cubicles.

Mr. BOOPER—Considering the good sanitary state of this property Mr. Osborne's application should be granted.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—Four hundred feet cubic space for an adult in a well ventilated house is quite sufficient.

ELLIS KADOORIE CHINESE SCHOOLS SOCIETY.

HONGKONG COLLEGE PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

His Excellency the Governor and Lady Lugard presided at the annual distribution of prizes of the Ellis Kadoorie Hongkong College held on January 10th. There were seated with the Governor and Lady Lugard on the platform Mr. A. J. Brackenbury, Private Secretary, Mr. Ellis Kadoorie, Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe Inspector of Schools, and Mr. Lau Chu-pak, while the body of the room in which the distribution took place was well filled with visitors, including many ladies.

Mr. BRAIDWOOD said:—Your Excellency, Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen—It is with much pleasure that I present to you the seventh annual report of the Society's Hongkong College, recording as it does an extraordinary increase in point of numbers over the attendance of any previous year. For the purposes of the Government Grant in aid of the scheme the College year closes on the last day of June Mr E. D. C. Wolfe, in the absence of Mr. E. A. Irving, conducted the annual examination on behalf of the Government and reported on the 26th July. [Report read. Mr Wolfe recommended a grant at the rate of 3's.

Mr. Braidwood, after dealing with a few points in the report, said: The faculty which Chinese youths possess of memorizing facts and phrases accounts in many instances for similarity in the wording of answers.

The Headmaster was absent on leave from 4th May to 14th November The Anglo-Chinese staff was increased by the engagement of Mr Yeung Kong who joined on 6th May. To keep pace with our steadily increasing numbers the Council has sent to England for two additional trained teachers who are expected to arrive after the Chinese New Year holidays

The greatest number on the register during the year was 571 and the maximum number present was 538. The average daily attendance was 302 compared with 319 for the previous year, and for the six months ending 31st December 1907 it has been 467. Classes were held on 221 days and 158 students were present on every occasion while 125 made over 200 attendances. This is a great improvement on last year when the numbers were 81 and 61 respectively.

Hygiene has been taught regularly throughout the year and the lessons have, wherever possible been accompanied by experiments in which the students evinced the greatest interest. In the last competition held in the senior division, one of our pupils, Lau In Chung, was bracketed with a student from another college for first place, while in the team examination held in December last our students occupied the fourth place.

Classes for physical exercise, which every student, unless physically unfit, is expected to attend, have been held regularly twice a week and under the able and energetic tuition of Sergeant Liddard of the 3rd Middlesex Regt., the students are reaping the benefits of a regular system of physical culture. The college football club, thanks to the exertions of Messrs. Barlow and Hamilton, continues to attract an increasing number of players and it is due to the assiduous coaching of the former that the college team heads the list of Chinese schools competing in the League matches. In summer, when football was not able to be played, a bathing and swimming club was inaugurated and over 100 boys gladly availed themselves of the opportunity for such pleasant recreation. The library, which was formed three years ago, is still well patronized by the boys, more particularly by the students of the upper forms who will be pleased to hear that there is a probability of a number of new books being added to the collection at an early date.

As in former years the examination, on the results of which the scholarships and prizes are awarded, was held as late as possible in the fourth session Into the great mass of figures connected therewith I do not propose to enter, as for the information of the council, the examination schedules are appended. Briefly stated, the results were as follows: 449 pupils were present at examination, of these 29 failed to gain 50 per cent of the possible marks and 420 passed 93.5 per cent.

The outstanding features of the examination were (a) the signal failure of the two highest forms in the piece of unseen Dictation (b) the almost total collapse of class IV in the Grammar paper and (c) the remarkably good results throughout in English colloquial. The last mentioned is particularly gratifying as it realizes to a great extent our principal ideal which is to produce English speaking students.

Mr. BRAIDWOOD then asked the Governor to present the prizes

His EXCELLENCY, who on rising was greeted with applause, said—Ladies and gentlemen, The day before yesterday, on Saturday, I had the pleasure of distributing prizes at the District Schools and I took occasion to remark on the extremely rapid growth in numbers which had characterised the past year But I think this school can boast on the whole a more rapid growth, the most rapid growth, of any school in the Colony. I note it was established only seven years ago, and in 1901 the average attendance was 150. Last year that had increased to 319, and this year it has increased to 302, that is to say that in a period of three years the school has more than doubled its numbers, and the Headmaster has just told us that for six months of the current year the average has risen to 467. I hope that will be maintained during the remaining six months still to run I quote the figures of the average attendance rather than the total number of pupils in the school because I think the true index is the average attendance and not the maximum enrolment on the books As regards that we have been told that the number has now reached 600 I think That is to say that the school has now reached a position second only to that of Queen's College Large new buildings were erected last year, but we have heard from the Inspector of Schools that the space in the old wing is still overcrowded I hope those who have the interests of this school at heart and support it will take into consideration this fact, and perhaps even further extensions to meet the growing needs may be contemplated The staff has been largely increased, but we have heard it also has become hardly sufficient for the rapidly growing needs of the school, and we have heard from the headmaster that two more English teachers are on the way. That will bring the total staff to a headmaster, five English masters and eleven Chinese. The report that we have just listened to is on the whole very satisfactory. The Inspector of Schools has told us that he can report satisfactory progress during the year. Last year he said that the English of the upper forms was "quite unusually good." Those were his words. I am glad to see that this year that standard appears to be well maintained. I note in the headmaster's report that at his last examination the averages for English were the highest of any; the average for English colloquial was as high as 98½ per cent; for writing 97. I think I also noticed with great interest the excellent report on hygiene. Why I say excellent—the school only obtained fourth place but at the same time the Inspector of Schools tells us that great interest was manifested in the subject. My predecessor took great interest in this subject, and I claim that mine is not less. We are now endeavouring in every way we can to obtain the hearty and cordial co-operation of the leading members of the Chinese community in our efforts to improve the sanitation of this Colony, and in our efforts especially, I would say, to trust the carrying out of our designs for the improvement of the sanitation to the Chinese themselves And, ladies and gentlemen, I think that if we can find keen interest is taken in hygiene and kindred subjects in these large schools of the Colony we are instituting the very best possible precautions for the coming generation, and indeed for ourselves by increasing the home interest and in teaching Chinese families to understand what it is that we are striving at in this improvement of hygiene and sanitation (applause). I am glad to be able to congratulate you boys upon your success in sport A year or two ago you took the Chinese schools challenge cup, and the headmaster told us just now that for the past year you have headed the list in League matches. It was my predecessor's custom on these occasions to give you a lecture on some subject of interest, generally the subject the school had shown it was weakest on He gave on two occasions most interesting discourses on geography. I don't propose myself to give you an address on any technical subject, but perhaps in some future year I may endeavour to interest you on some subject To day I will confine myself to one point I want you to realise that the Ellis Kadoorie school is no longer one of a large group of Government aided schools; it has emerged into the second largest school in this Colony, next to Queen's College. I want you to realise what that position means, that you are acquiring the standard of a public school I want you to realise what the name of public school means. Boys in England have a phrase 'public school form', by which is meant that the dignity and standing of the school must be upheld. The public school boy feels that he himself personally has got a position to maintain, and that he has a tradition to conform to. He feels that it is beneath the form of the school to cheat to copy papers at examinations, to be cowardly, to be slovenly in his dress He feels that if he has done wrong he must own up and take the consequences That is what a public school boy should do, and what the form of the school requires He takes on for the honour of the school both in class work and in sport He wants to see his school come out on top both in examinations, in the cricket field and in the football field I quite agree in this matter with what the headmaster said just now, that the association of masters in sports in the field with the boys is in this sense most valuable, because I think it is then, more than at any other time, that boys are taught what public school form means I hope the Ellis Kadoorie school will not be beyond any school in the Colony in creating and maintaining sound public school form (applause). Mr. Braidwood, I wish you and your staff and all our boys very pleasant and happy holidays and every success in the coming year (applause).

After Mr. LAU CHU-PAK had translated that part of the Governor's speech dealing with form in public schools into the vernacular, His Ex-

cellency presented the prizes to the successful scholars, many of whom then gave recitations.

Mr. BRIDWOOD on behalf of the school Council, the staff and the scholars, thanked His Excellency and Lady Lugard for attending. He was sure both pupils and teachers had taken to heart the eminently good advice tendered by His Excellency to keep the form of the schools in this Colony up to the standard of the public school form at home. He could say for the staff that they would endeavour to do so, and they hoped to show Their Excellencies next year that not only did they appreciate their attendance, but could also take their advice.

The proceedings ended with cheers for the Governor and Lady Lugard.

BELILIOS PUBLIC SCHOOL.

GOVERNOR DISTRIBUTES PRIZES.

The annual distribution of prizes at Belilios Public School was presided over on Jan. 21st by His Excellency the Governor, who was accompanied by Lady Lugard. There were seated with them Captain Fleming, extra A.D.C., Mr. A. J. Brackenbury, private secretary, Mr E. D. C. Wolfe, Inspector of Schools and Mrs. Tutcher, head mistress of the Belilios School. Before the proceedings opened a small pupil presented Lady Lugard with a handsome bouquet of flowers, Her Ladyship graciously returning thanks. The pupils, who were lined up on the stage, then went through some nursery rhymes, after which Mrs. Tutcher's annual report was read by the Inspector of Schools as follows:—

Your Excellency, Lady Lugard, Ladies and Gentlemen. The following is the 17th annual report of the school. The staff of the English and Anglo-Chinese Divisions is the same as for the previous year. In the Chinese Division there has been one change among the assistant masters, and an extra needlework teacher has been appointed from the beginning of the year. The attendance shows a distinct improvement on that of last year, the daily average for 1907 being 108, as against 82 for 1906 in the English Department, while in the Vernacular Division it is 237 as compared with 187 in the previous year. Of the 102 new scholars admitted during the year, four were of English nationality, 63 Chinese, 25 Portuguese, and 10 Eurasian. To encourage a longer attendance at school a change has been made in the arranging of the five free scholarships. Instead of having these competed for annually they have been made to extend over four years, thus taking a pupil from Class V.B. to Class I.A. and new scholarships are to be awarded as the original ones fall vacant. It is naturally too early yet to speak of the success or otherwise of the experiment. With a view to encouraging the girls attending the District Schools, and at the same time to induce them to take up the study of English, three free scholarships of one year's duration were awarded in the beginning of 1907 to the dux girls in District Schools numbers 33, 60 and 69. The pupil from No. 60 failed to put in an appearance here, but the other two have fully appreciated the favour, and have made satisfactory progress. New nominations should be made at the end of February. The examination for the five prizes annually awarded through the kindness of Mr. R. E. Belilios was held in June last, and the prizes were awarded according to the decision of the Inspector of Schools. We were somewhat surprised to receive in February the belated results of the St Louis Exhibition held in 1904. For the embroideries then exhibited this school was awarded a silver medal and diploma of merit. An extra teacher of needlework in the Vernacular Division has been a most popular appointment, and the girls are now taught to cut out and make their own clothes as well as do the usual fine embroidery work. The school buildings have recently been put in thorough repair and colourwashed and painted throughout. The very best thanks of the teachers and pupils are gratefully given to the following gentlemen and firms who so kindly subscribed to the Prize Fund:—Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Messrs. J. R. M. Smith, R. Shewan, W. G. Humphreys, H. Humphreys, E. Shellim, A. J. Raymond, See Woo, Lau, Chu-pak, Ho Fook, Ho Tung, Fung Wa-chun, Chan Siu-ki, Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, Jardine Matheson & Co., Gibb, Livingston & Co., Linstead and Davis, D. Sassoon & Co., Sam Wang & Co., Johnson, Stokes and Master, Hughes and Hough, Bradley & Co., Norddeutscher Lloyd, Douglas Lapraik & Co., Nippon Yusen Kaisha, Lane Crawford & Co., Tak Cheong & Co., and Sook Hing & Co.

Mr. WOLFE then read his annual report, prefacing this, however, with a few general remarks. He mentioned that last year was the first year in which the scheme of dividing the English and Anglo-Chinese sides of the school began, but it was not entirely successful, and possibly certain provisions would have to be introduced into the scheme for next year. Belilios School was in a noisy neighbourhood, and the headmistress and her assistants were greatly taxed by these noises and although it was impossible to stop them altogether he hoped they would be minimised as far as possible in the new year.

An excellent display of musical drill was next given by the pupils and much admired by all present, the manner in which they went through the various exercises showing that they had reached such a stage of perfection only by arduous training and long instruction on the part of the teachers.

His EXCELLENCY, before distributing the prizes said—Ladies and gentlemen, You will, I am sure, agree with me that a very special interest appeals to the schools for girls in the Far East, and I am very glad to find that in Hongkong this matter has received special attention. We have many schools under the aegis of two great Christian creeds as "Fairlea" and other schools under the Protestants, and two convents under the Roman Catholics. There are also some 54 vernacular schools which are subsidised by the Government, and the majority of which are for girls; but Belilios Public School is the only school established by the Government for girls and it is by far the largest, and I think further that it should set the standard for all the rest. The Chinese community have not yet entirely shaken off the prejudice against the higher education of women, and since in that term is included the study of English, the Government has made a concession in this matter, and that is the endowment of a Government school in which the medium of instruction is largely Chinese. The average attendance during the past year we have just heard was 341 in all. Out of that number over two-thirds, namely 233, were included in the vernacular side; of the remainder, on the English side the number was 108, while some two-fifths were in what the Inspector of Schools called the Anglo Chinese side—that is to say, Chinese girls who are instructed in the English language. It has been my pleasant task in every school I have visited during the last few days to congratulate both teachers and pupils on a large increase in numbers during the past year, and I am glad to be able to congratulate Belilios School also on a large increase during the past year. The English side has increased from 52 to 108, about 24 per cent, and the vernacular side from 183 to 233 about 20 per cent. But I confess it would give me very much greater pleasure if I could congratulate you on a larger number of transfers from the vernacular to the English side. I am not one of those who has contempt for the prejudices and beliefs of nations other than my own, and so long as Chinese parents desire that their daughters should not be educated in English; but should learn only Chinese, that wish shall be respected. But we see to-day in this great Empire of China that the study of western learning is becoming more and more a matter of importance. Her sons are daily, in largely increasing numbers, studying western knowledge both in China itself and abroad, and here in Hongkong hundreds—indeed I may say thousands—are being educated in western knowledge. It is inevitable, ladies and gentlemen, that these boys as they grow up will desire to find wives who have some sympathy with their ideals and with their new knowledge. It is quite true that the education given on the vernacular side is western knowledge, but if the learners here when they leave school cannot read English books, it is obvious that whatever they learned as young children, they cannot extend in after life the knowledge they acquired. Belilios School was founded in 1890, and it was founded chiefly for Chinese girls, but at that time there were no schools for non Chinese, and consequently a large number of non-Chinese girls came to this school. In the year 1893 the numbers on the English side reached the maximum of 185. About that time and later a number of other schools for non-Chinese opened, the Diocesan Girls School, the Kowloon Girls School, two French convents and others. The result was that year by year the numbers on the English side steadily decreased until last year there was a maximum of 82. This year, it is true, there has been a considerable increase, but for my own part I should not be sorry to see the school revert to the intention of the original founder and become a school primarily and chiefly for Chinese girls. I have alluded to the large increase in the numbers, but you must remember that it is not merely an increase of numbers that we desire. I should indeed be very sorry, I should deplore an increase if it meant that the standard was not maintained. The aid schools depend for their grant on their standard of efficiency, and we must see to it that the Government schools do not fall below, but steadily increase their standard of efficiency from year to year. The reports which we have just heard from the head mistress and the Inspector of Schools are on the whole, I think, satisfactory. I am glad to hear that the girls are now being taught plain sewing and cutting out of clothing in addition to fancy work and embroidery. I think also that a greater interest might be taken in the study of hygiene, and I am sorry to see the Inspector of Schools did not report very favourably on the subject. The term hygiene is a large one, and includes many subjects. There is the theory of hygiene and hygiene science. There are studies for men and for boys, and in their advanced stages are subjects rather for those who intend to take up the profession of sanitary engineers. But the study of hygiene of the home and hygiene of the person are in my opinion eminently subjects to be taught to girls. I can conceive of no better objects than to teach girls the value of fresh air and light in their homes, of the necessity of cleanliness in their persons and surroundings; and of the benefits to be derived from pure water, and from cleanliness in their preparation of food. These things, ladies and gentlemen, I think are matters which can eminently form a subject for the instruction of girls, and I say especially for Chinese girls. I think it has been recognised now among the principal classes of schools in Europe that the treatment and care of infants form a valuable subject of instruction for those who are to be the mothers of the next generation and I think this too may form a valuable subject of instruction in our girls schools. I think it is well they should realise that by paying attention to this subject the physique of children may be improved, and that the terrible infant mortality we have to daily deplore here may be greatly decreased. I wish you, Mrs. Tutcher and your staff, and all you girls, very pleasant and happy holidays, and I hope when I see you this time next year that I shall be able to congratulate you on a further increase in the numbers of the school and on an increase in the efficiency of the standard, and I hope also on the increase of transfers from the Chinese to the English side (applause)

His Excellency then presented the prizes, and then a Chinese girl presented Lady Lugard with a handsomely embroidered map of the world which was worked in Chinese silk. On it was inscribed "Presented by the Chinese girls in Belilios Public School as a souvenir of this prize giving, and of their gratitude to Lady Lugard for so kindly being present."

Lady Lugard thanked the girls very much, saying that she would always value their present highly. It would always remind her in England of the schools of Hongkong, which would be very pleasant for her to remember.

A vote of thanks to Their Excellencies proposed by the Inspector of Schools was carried by acclamation, and the proceedings ended with the singing of the National Anthem.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

There was a large attendance at the annual distribution of prizes held at Queen's College on Jan. 22, and presided over by His Excellency the Governor. There were with His Excellency and Lady Lugard on the platform of the College Hall His Lordship the Bishop of Victoria, Commodore and Mrs. Stokes, Mr. A. J. Brackenbury, Mr. Romano, Consul-General for Portugal, Commendador Leiria, Dr. Amos P. Wilder, Consul General for the United States, Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe, Inspector of Schools, Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, Captain Mitchell-Taylor, A.D.C., Captain Fleming, extra A. D. C. and a number of ladies, while among others in the body of the hall were the Ven. Archdeacon Banister, Rev C. H. Hickling, Rev. F. T. Johnson, Rev. and Mrs. Pearce, Rev. Bro. Sylvester, Mr. G. Piercy, Mr. H. K. Holmes. Mr. and Miss Shelton Hooper and Mr. Ho Hom-tong.

Dr. BATESON WRIGHT read the annual report, extracts from which are as follows:—

During the year 1907, 645 boys applied for admission, of whom 396 secured seats. On the other hand 347 boys left in the course of the year. The total roll for the year was 1401.

The total gross expenditure was $60,995. or $4,863 more than in 1906, the increase being due to the 2/ rate for Exchange Compensation ordered by the Secretary of State. The public paid one half of the year's expenses of the college, and the cost of each boy to the public was $30.82. The statistics in this paragraph merely show a reversion to the conditions of 1905. The following changes on the Staff took place during the year. April 1, Mr. Lai Pai-yan appointed Articled Pupil Teacher; April 30, Tsang Kun-wa, clerk, resigned; May 1, Mr. Wong Wai shu appointed Clerk; May 4, Mr. R. E. O. Bird, Senior Assistant Master, went on leave; September 20, Mr. B. Tanner returned from leave. The drainage of the entire premises has been relaid, and a new Masters latrine provided. The roofs of two class-rooms have been repaired, and the cubic content of the rooms considerably increased by the exposure of the rafters. It does not appear possible for the Public Works Department to effect alterations of such magnitude in our short vacations (one month each, in February and August) The consequent dislocation of school work is considerable, as we have no spare room into which to transfer the disturbed class. We are obliged to use the Grand Entrance Lobby, which is entirely unsuited for educational purposes. In the case of classes of 60 boys, some two dozen have to be distributed among other sections which are thereby overcrowded. On the 13th of September a panic occurred in the east wing of the college, two or three hundred boys rushing downstairs, on account of a cry in the streets that Queen's College was falling, The origin of the scare was simple enough. A piece of plaster fell from the ceiling in a class room, whereupon all the boys in that room bolted. The wind blew the dust into the adjoining room, where the boys mistaking it for smoke shouted "Fire!" and ran. The people in the street added to the excitement. In five minutes order was restored and work resumed. It was discovered however that one boy in alarm for his own safety had jumped over the verandah, a distance of 25 feet. He was conveyed to hospital and returned to school a month later. To prevent the recurrence of such a panic, all plaster ceilings in class rooms and verandahs should be removed. This is the more necessary when we remember that these ceilings have been *in situ* fully twenty years and in many places are covered with patches The health of the college has been very good. The chief causes of absence from sickness were Beri-beri, from which Chinese appear to recover with astonishing ease, and Scabies, which often necessitates an absence of two or three months from school. Dr. Jordan and Dr. Grone were appointed by the Government to report on the condition of the eyes of the pupils of the college, and they discovered a very large proportion of the boys suffering from Trachoma in various stages. I am pleased to be able to report a very marked improvement in the success of our candidates at the Oxford Local Examinations, which were held last July for the twentieth time at this Centre. The occasion was signalised by Mok Kai-fook's taking Third Class Junior Honours. This is the first time that a Queen's College boy has obtained Honours This year I am happy to say that all our Juniors took Mathematics, passing 100 p.c. in Arithmetic, 90 p.c. in Algebra, 80 p.c. in Geometry, and 90 p.c in Mensuration, and also 4 out of 5 or 80 p.c. in Trigonometry, All the "Preliminary" took Higher Arithmetic and Algebra, passing 100 p.c. in Arithmetic, 78 in Algebra and 56 in Higher Arithmetic. The mark Good, next to Distinction, was awarded 19 instead of 11 times as last year. Senior, 1 in Scripture. Junior 3 in Arithmetic, 1 in Scripture, 1 in Algebra. 2 in Geometry and 2 in Mensuration. Preliminary, 4 in Arithmetic, 2 in Geometry and 1 in Freehand Drawing. I have not the slightest hesitation in assessing the work of 1907 as excellent. When I arrived in the Colony, 22nd of January 1882, I immediately proceeded to hold the annual examination of the Central School, 367 boys, 1875 papers. This year I have examined 1044 boys and personally examined 8,888 papers. The fact that I mark all the papers myself is not in any sense whatever a reflection on my staff, whose ability to hold examinations carefully is amply attested twice a year at the mid-term examinations: I am actuated by the very simple and to me excellent reason, the maintenance of one standard in appraising the excellence and intelligence of the answers throughout this large college. It is not because I lay claim to any foolish claim to omniscience or to infallibility but because I believe the gain to the whole college incalculable, and the loss to the individual (in the event of a slip) infinitesimal. A very good illustration of the wide divergence of views in assessing the same paper is afforded by the Table of Marks awarded by six masters (including myself) on the subject of Composition in the First Class. We none of us know the writer of a paper, there is nothing but an index number provided for the occasion. The five P. T.'s and all the boys in both sections of the Class are thrown into hopeless disorder, a key being kept by the Head Master. The marks awarded to one paper were 52, 70, 90, 90, 50, 63 and to another 70, 80, 96, 95, 64, 6[illegible]. We have a most excellent English staff What is needed is for each master to specialise in some distinct branch. When I approached them by circular for the expression of their views in this direction, they showed a remarkable unanimity in their desire to specialise on Natural Science; but as the Governing body is opposed to the introduction of Elementary Science into the curriculum, it behoves the English masters to seek other channels for the vent of their energies. Mr Grant has for years been practically Mathematical Master in Class I., also taking the subject of Book-keeping in Class II. I propose next month to make Mr. Crook Quasi Professor of Geography, a subject in which he has distinguished himself The great need of the college is a man who will so devote himself to the subjects of English, Grammar and Composition as to be an authority on these important subjects. Since the death of Mr. Falconer (Second master) twenty years ago, we have had no master prominent for ability in this direction, and the want of such a man is urgently felt in a college teaching the English language to students nearly all Chinese. As regards the Chinese staff, we may also congratulate the public on service faithfully and energetically performed. Of the eleven Chinese assistants, the four at the head of the list may without hesitation be at once classified as excellent and there are two or three promising young masters below them In the Vernacular School 707 boys were examined and 641 or 91 per cent. passed 308 or 43 p.c. of the Vernacular School are now in the highest class, class 5. As only a dozen newly admitted boys are fit for this class it is evident that great credit is due to the Vernacular masters for the high standard to which they have raised the native school in three years. The Reading and Cricket Clubs flourish. Gymnastic instruction under Bombardier Wade, R.G.A., is very successful to small squads of 17, making a total of 85. Our Football team has distinguished itself this year, by winning the Hongkong Schools' Football League Shield, and playing a well contested game with the "Empress of India" Football team, winner of the "Empress" Competition Cup. Visits interchanged between the Queen's College and Christian College (Canton) Football teams are a distinctly new departure, as there is no precedent on record of a Chinese Football team leaving the mainland to play upon foreign shores. Queen's College was too strong for them, but it is hoped that better matches may take place in the future. During the year 1907, 93 boys from Queen's College obtained situations; 9 in the Hongkong Government Service, 25 in local firms, 8 under the Chinese Government and 51 in various parts of the Far East. The above figures represent only those boys whose careers on leaving school are known to us. Many boys are employed in Government and other offices without our knowledge, and it is impossible to say how many of the 89 boys who did not return after vacations last year and were marked "left", are so employed. I have once again to express our most fervent sense of gratitude for the generosity of the public in supplementing the Government Grant of $200 for Prizes. Queen's College is hindered in an ambitious upward course by the following considerations: It is a day-school so that all attempts to teach English conversation are necessarily confined to school-hours and no supervision can be given to preparation of work. Again, fully one-third of the boys change annually, and this has always been the case from time immemorial; 400 boys leaving and 400 new boys being admitted each year is a very serious obstacle in the way of obtaining a large efficient Upper School. In this connection it must be observed that there is no external system for feeding the Upper School of Queen's College such as exists in England, for the half-dozen boys from the Government District Schools are lost sight of when the number of seats available (400) is borne in mind. I must confess my sense of shame when year after year I observe the number of heads of colleges and schools who attend the Queen's College prize distribution, and I am sorry to say that I attend theirs very occasionally. I hope they will accept my explanation that up to the prize day I am without exaggeration tied to my office. Sir, I have now the honour to thank and welcome your Excellency and Lady Lugard on this occasion.

His EXCELLENCY, before distributing the prizes, said—Ladies and gentlemen, Dr. Bateson Wright, My Lord Bishop: I think that the Colony of Hongkong can be very justly proud of maintaining such a school as this—the largest Anglo-Chinese school in the British Empire, and I should think probably the largest public school that we have in the whole Empire. Lately the day before yesterday, when distributing the prizes at the Ellis Kadoorie school I told them that they were now almost acquiring the status of a public school, and I endeavoured to impress upon them the duties and dignity and importance of that position You, Sir, and your staff, and the boys of Queen's College which has now existed for forty years, are familiar with what is meant by a public school, and with what is meant by that implacable term 'public school form," and I need only ask you to endeavour to maintain in the face of all competition with all other schools your premier place as the great public school of Hongkong (applause). I believe myself in inter-school competition, and I hope that you will maintain and increase the number of competitions in sport and in work with the other big schools in this Colony—St. Joseph's, St. Stephen's, the Ellis Kadoorie, Diocesan Boys' and others. There were two reports published during the year on Queen's College; one is a report of the body of independent examiners; and the other is the report which we have just heard read by the headmaster. The report of the independent examiners I can only describe as moderately satisfactory. In English, both colloquial and written, and also in transcription from English to Chinese and from Chinese to English, the results are good. They are also described as good in mathematics, but in geography and history the results are not good, and in hygiene they are only fair. The headmaster's report, however, takes a higher and a wider view of the school than the mere examination which is conducted by the independent board of examiners, and I think we

may regard the headmaster's report as eminently satisfactory (applause). The average attendance is lower than it was last year, but I think he has given very satisfactory reasons why the attendance has fallen. Roughly speaking Queen s College numbers 1400, with an average attendance of 1000. It may be a little above or a little below in one year or another, but that chiefly depends upon the number that has happened to leave the higher forms in the preceding year. In the headmaster's examination the number of passes shows a great improvement on that of last year. Last year only 82 passed, and this year there were 94. I agree most heartily with what Dr. Bateson Wright said about the great value of having an examination of the whole school conducted by one person. I think by that means uniformity of awarding marks to all the different classes, standards and sections in the school is secured, and also I think that Dr. Bateson Wright's long residence here has secured to us another benefit; that is, we have the same examiner from year to year, so that we have considerable reliability in statistics of one year as compared with the statistics of another. I am glad to be able to congratulate the school upon the great success in the Oxford Local Examinations which show a great progress compared with last year. This year one of your boys, Mok Kai-fook, succeeded in gaining honours in the junior division of the Oxford Local Examination for the first time in the history of Queen's College, and I think I may say that with one exception it was the first time honours have been taken by any Chinese in the Oxford Local Examination in Hongkong. That exception was in 1905 by St. Stephen's College. The members who have been awarded the mark good are 19 as against 11 last year, but still I think that a considerable effort is wanted in this direction, for I observed that although we have this year a larger number of marks given there is only one who has passed in the senior division as against four last year and six the year before. The headmaster speaking generally of the work of the school said that it was excellent, and especially praises the work in mathematics. My predecessor speaking here last year laid great emphasis on the study of mathematics as being so useful to any young man who wished to adopt the profession of engineer, and he pointed out how much China wants engineers for the large number of railways she has undertaken. In sports you have achieved success by winning the football challenge shield and by defeating the runners up of the "Empress of India" competition cup. I hope to see, as I said before, that you will maintain your prominence among other schools in sport as well as in work. The Government District Schools of Wan'sai, Saiyingpun and Yaumati show a very remarkable increase in their numbers, and this I hope will mean that there will be more competition for entrance examination, and consequently the standard throughout. I notice you had this year 627 applicants for 396 vacancies. I will say one word about the evening continuation classes. They are not exactly a portion of this school, but they were instituted in order to enable boys of Queen's College and other schools to continue their studies after they had left school. They were begun last year as an experiment at a cost of $4300. I have given considerable attention and thought as to how they can be placed on a stable and satisfactory basis, and the Legislative Council has agreed this year to spend a sum of $8050 upon these classes which we shall in future call The Technical Institute of Hongkong (applause). And I hope the Technical Institute will establish its right to be recognised as a great educational agency here to enable boys to prosecute their studies in technical work and more advanced grades, so that they may gain professions in China, Hongkong and elsewhere. The headmaster made but brief reference to the number of boys who leave the College to take up appointments in the Government or in the Chinese Government, or in mercantile and professional houses here and abroad. Last year the number was 147, and this year it is 93, and I thought, Sir, I detected a note of regret in your remark that so large a number went away. I can thoroughly sympathise with it because it means a loss of promising pupils and a decrease in the number for the annual examinations. But, Sir, I think it should be the boast and pride of Queen's College that it sends forth into the world to assist in the administration and to assist in guiding the destinies of China young men who have been trained in this College (applause). If they have rightly understood the teaching of history, and if their horizon has been enlarged by the teaching of geography, I think we may confidently believe they will very seriously influence the future destinies of their country. In any case they have learned here, I hope, the idea of fair play, the idea of straight speaking and straight dealing, and I think there is no greater benefit we can confer upon China than by sending forward to help her in her work young men trained on these lines (applause). A few days ago I paid a ceremonial visit to the Viceroy of Canton, and I was delighted to find that one of his principal officials, who interpreted between himself and me, boasted that he was an old Queen's boy and an old Queen's master. If I were asked, ladies and gentlemen, what is the justification of the British Empire, and on what grounds we have to be proud of its expansion, I should say that the British Empire will be justified in the voice of posterity and by the arbitrament of history because it has ameliorated the conditions of the subject races under its control; because it has taught them self-control and has provided education; because has taught them self-respect; because it has taught them the value and benefit of individual liberty which an old writer in, I think, the reign of Queen Elizabeth, described as British fireside liberty, which is the birthright of the British people; and because it has induced a higher standard of comfort and of cleanliness. It is because I am convinced that these things are more effectually taught under British guidance than under the guidance of any other nation that I myself believe in the expansion of the British Empire, and so far as has been in my power I have endeavoured to assist in that expansion (applause). The majority of our fellow subjects here, ladies and gentlemen, are Chinese, and it is by the means of schools such as this that these principles are engrafted into the people. Here in Hongkong we exercise an even more liberal spirit. We don't insist that our scholars shall be British subjects, or even that they shall be permanent residents in this Colony. We are content to see Chinese youths come from the great Empire of China and learn here those principles to which I have alluded. We are content to see them go back to China, and I think that we ourselves receive as much benefit as we give by the better understanding that is thus promoted between the Chinese and ourselves (applause). We cast out bread upon the waters, and we are satisfied that it will carry nutrition into famished regions. Half the cost of every pupil in the school is borne by the public revenue. Each individual in this Colony who pays towards the public revenue may justly feel proud of his share in this work. I will say only one more word, in order to crystallise the purport of the remarks I have made, and to emphasise their meaning. To you, Sir, and your staff I would say that you should not be behind the Japanese or any other nation in teaching patriotism to the boys—the British subjects under your charge. And you should endeavour to teach too, all the principles upon which I have laid stress. To you, boys, I would say that you should not only endeavour to beat the boys of other schools both in sports and in work, but you should endeavour to remember the standard which is expected of a Queen's College boy—the standard of life and the standard of behaviour. To you, ladies and gentlemen, I would say that you should remember that you are active partners in this work which has built up the British Empire; that you are not only educating the children of Hongkong, but that you are contributing to the diffusion of knowledge beyond our frontier. If at times you feel inclined to grumble at the calls made on your purse for the public revenue of the Colony, bear in mind that no inappreciable part of it, and a continually increasing part of it is devoted to education. I hope myself some day to see Hongkong become the centre of Western learning in the Far East. I hope to see it become the university at which students of China may come and take their degrees in western learning. And although these ambitions extend to the far future, during the time I am in Hongkong I shall do my utmost to further them. Dr. Bateson Wright, I wish you and your staff a well earned holiday, and I wish you, boys, a pleasant holiday and a happy new year. (applause).

His Excellency then distributed the prizes after which

Dr. Bateson Wright thanked him very much for his kind address and hoped both boys and masters would profit by the good advise bestowed upon them. The speaker was gratified to find that His Excellency was of opinion that the education of Chinese from the Empire of China was a legitimate part of the work of Queen's College, because some were of opinion that it was not.

The proceedings ended with cheers for the Governor and Lady Lugard, for the visitors and for the headmaster.

DIOCESAN SCHOOL PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

His Excellency the Governor, who was accompanied by Lady Lugard, presided at the annual distribution of prizes of the Diocesan School and Orphanage held on Jan. 23. There were also present among others His Lordship the Bishop of Victoria, the Ven. Archdeacon Banister, Rev. F. T. Johnson, Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe, Inspector of Schools, Captain Mitchell Taylor, A.D.C., Mr. A. J. Brackenbury, private Secretary, Mr. G. Piercy, head of the Diocesan School, Dr. and Mrs. Bateson Wright, Rev. and Mrs. Pearce, Ho Kom-tong, Miss Bird, Mr. and Mrs. Stapleton, Hon. Dr. Atkinson, Mr. and Mrs. Braidwood, Mr. Hamilton, Mrs. Bishop, Mrs. J. Shepherd, Mr. Macpherson, Dr. Sabree, Rev. Stevens, Mrs. Tutcher and Mr. A. O. Brawn.

Mr. G. Piercy read the report, as follows:—The year began rather unfortunately, for the boys had re-assembled only a short time after the Chinese New Year Holidays, when an epidemic of mumps, measles and chicken-pox broke out and the school was closed by medical advice for ten days (including Easter) and absence on account of illness was very common until the warm weather set in, in May. Notwithstanding this, with an enrolment of 320 boys, the average attendance was 224.5 compared with 222.5 in 1906. Every year a number of applicants for admission both as boarders and day-scholars have to be refused for want of accommodation, so that much higher figures cannot be expected until the older and more dilapidated parts of the buildings are replaced by more modern and larger premises. In addition to weekly examinations held throughout the year, I examined the whole school at Midsummer and again at the close of the present term and am satisfied with the good work done throughout the year: and more especially the improvement in the lower part of the school. At the Oxford Local Examinations in July 8 boys passed the Preliminary, 4 the Junior and 3 the Senior, making a total of 15 as compared with 12 passes last year. In the Hon. Secretary's Annual Report, Dr. Bateson Wright reviews the 21 years that these Local Examinations have been held in the Colony and concludes with this sentence "It is manifest that the palm for steady success during the last 16 years cannot be withheld from the Diocesan School." Mr. Wolfe, H. M's Inspector of Schools, who examined the boys orally in the lower part of the school and by written work in the upper form last December, has awarded to Chiu Chi-tan a prize for history kindly presented by Mr. H. W. Kennett for the boy most distinguished in the Government Examinations. Two years ago Sir Matthew Nathan presented a handsome silver shield to be competed for by teams of ten from any school teaching hygiene. Seven schools entered for the examination which was held at Queen's College for boys and at the Belilios Schools for girls. Our team consisted of five boys from the fourth and five from the fifth standards: their aggregate of marks was about 61 more than that of any other team and so we, for the second time, carried off the shield.

The Hon. Dr. Atkinson has kindly given a prize for the best hygiene paper in the school. In January of last year Mrs. Noble resigned to be married and her place was most efficiently filled by Mrs. Tuxford a trained and certificated teacher who has greatly improved the work of the lower classes, especially in arithmetic. In November Mr. Duncan Brown arrived from Australia to take the place of Mr. Hall on his return to England. The Anglo-Chinese Assistant was twice changed and now we have in Mr. Lui Cho-hang a teacher who can maintain order and explain the English lessons in Chinese most satisfactorily. The boarders have been regularly drilled by Sergeant Liddard of the Middlesex Regiment. The bathing excursions were greatly enjoyed and an increasingly larger number of boys are able to swim: the season closed with aquatic sports when prizes for the various events were eagerly competed for: our thanks are due to Messrs. Nairn and Tuxford for kind assistance on that occasion. On Boxing Day the usual joint picnic for the boarders in the two Diocesan schools was held and a pleasant afternoon was spent at Seeton where various sports were indulged in. Cricket and more especially football still continue very popular and matches have been played with varying success. Our thanks are due to J. Bryant, Esq., who kindly gave a lantern and slides: to Messrs. Skott & Co. for 10 bags of flour; also to the Hon. Dr. Atkinson, Hon. Mr. E A. Hewett, Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk, Rev. F. T. Johnson, Messrs. L. Arnold, F. B. L. Bowley, Fung Wa-chuen, Ho Fook, Ho Tung, H. W. Kennett, Sin Tak-fan, F. Southey, A. S. Tuxford and Wing Po-chuen for contributions towards the Prize fund

His Lordship Bishop Lander on behalf of the committee, the staff and the boys of the school expressed a very cordial welcome to their Excellencies who had so very kindly attended the annual prize distribution. He thought ladies and gentlemen who took an interest in education had had plenty of occupation during the last few days. The same faces at the different prize distributions showed a spirit of harmony in connection with education, and it would be a good thing if they had the same hearty co-operation in their educational work. The English people were sometimes in danger of suffering from the disease called insularity, but the scholars at the Diocesan School were not likely to suffer from that. His Lordship concluded an excellent address by exhorting the boys to do what they had to do with all their might, and then called upon the Governor.

His Excellency, who on rising was received with great applause, said -My Lord Bishop Mr. Piercy, Ladies and Gentlemen, When you assembled this time last year on this very interesting occasion the proceedings were clouded by the memory of the loss of Bishop Hoare who was so deservedly popular as chairman of the committee of this school, and who lost his life in the typhoon of September 1906. During the last year my predecessor, Sir Matthew Nathan, has been transferred to another sphere, and you have again lost in him a great friend and one who took the keenest interest in the Diocesan Boys School. We, my Lord Bishop and myself, who are the successors to those supporters of education in Hongkong, and of the Diocesan Boys School, are here to-day to assure you both by our presence and by our words that we take no less deep an interest in the education of this school than those who preceded us (applause). I have glanced at previous reports concerning this school, and I see it has been a fortunate task to whoever presided in the chair on this occasion almost invariably to be able to praise the work of the previous year, and to congratulate the school on its progress, and I am most glad it has fallen to me to be able to do the same this year. The average attendance has increased. It stood at 195 in 1905; it reached 222 in the next year; and this year it has risen again to 226. The headmaster in his report which we have just heard, says he is thoroughly satisfied with the progress made during the year, and I think his standard is a high one. I was glad to see, also, that he laid special stress on the progress of the lower school. The Inspector of Schools told us that this school was thoroughly efficient, and was awarded the highest grant (applause). I would like to have been able to see the report for the past year of the committee, but I believe it is not yet issued. I, however, looked up the report of the year before, 1906, and I see that the committee then said they were glad to be able to congratulate the school on more pupils, more fees and a better average attendance, and I think from what we have heard they will be able to say that in the report on the year just closed. Ladies and Gentlemen, you cannot have more pupils if you have not got room to put them, and we heard from Mr. Piercy that the accommodation in the school is now too limited, and he desires that new buildings should replace the old ones. The school is managed by a very powerful and influential Committee and I hope they will take this matter into their consideration and see whether or not it is feasible to make the extensions the headmaster desires so that on a future year you will not have to say that boys have been from year to year refused because there was not room to put them up. Personally I should like to say that any extensions should be specially made to accommodate boys. I believe myself that a boy does not derive the full benefit of school life, as I said the other day at, I think, St. Joseph's College, unless he learns to find his own level amongst other boys; unless he learns the training of character which necessarily comes from mixing with other boys and finding, as I said, his level amongst them The Inspector of Schools gives us a detailed criticism on the different subjects which have formed the study of the past year. I do not intend to follow him in detailed criticism or detailed remarks upon them. Personally, although I have myself always been on the classical side in Public Schools, I am sorry to see that Latin is taught in a school which numbers only eighteen Europeans out of a total of 248. But this is a matter for the Committee to decide. I am very glad to be able to congratulate the school on winning the hygiene shield for the second time in succession and with a large preponderance of marks—60 above any other competitors (applause) I am glad to hear of the interest taken and the good results achieved in the course of visual instruction. That I think is one of the forms in which habits of observation can best be trained, and those habits of observation I entirely concur with your Lordship are at least as useful as lessons of the classroom. In sport you did not succeed last year in retaining the football shield, but I hear that both football and cricket have been well maintained. There are a large number of schools in Hongkong each with a different aim and object, and we can gauge to some extent their relation towards each other and their comparative merits in the matter of education by the report of the Inspector of schools, but that report does not include Queen's College and I think St. Stephen's. We can also gauge it to some extent by the competitions for the Oxford local examinations and also by the competitions for the Behlis prize, the hygiene shield and other prizes for every competition between all the schools. But I should like myself to see some simple test on general information and general intelligence. I propose therefore if it meets with the concurrence of the Headmasters to offer a small prize next year for a paper on general information. I would set it myself and ask one or two questions on each subject which has formed the study of the past year; and each school would nominate say four or five boys to compete. I should like if possible to institute a handicap for age but we will see whether that is feasible or not. In sports and athletics too we have got a football league and a challenge shield, but I see comparatively few cricket matches, and no matches at all so far as I am aware in hockey, tennis, swimming &c. I make the suggestion that you should appoint a committee of say, one master from each of the principal schools and perhaps one boy; they should form a general committee on sports and athletics It should be their business if possible, to institute, an inter-school annual athletic competition and also arrange different inter-school matches. And so far as I can see such competition as there has been between the different schools in athletics has been limited to the first eleven of each school in either cricket or football. I should like to see second elevens compete together. and if it is possible to get up a sufficient number of second elevens in the different schools should be glad to give a prize (applause). I have made a good many speeches of late, ladies and gentlemen, at the different schools, and as the Press have been so kind as to report me very fully I daresay the echo of what I have said had reached you, so I will not repeat myself. The Lord Bishop has called our attention to the fact that this school is largely cosmopolitan. I see in the report of last year that of a total number of 248, 134 were Asiatics, and perhaps it will not be entirely out of place, although my remarks would have been more appropriate in my address yesterday when I spoke to a thousand Chinese boys, yet it will not perhaps I say be without justification if I allude to a little book I happened to pick up yesterday written by Chan Chih-tung called "China's Only Hope." It is a remarkable little book written by a more remarkable man. Chan Chih-tung, as you know, is second to none of China's statesmen, and has a peculiar claim upon our attention both on account of his patriotism, and his learning, and his disinterestedness. Perhaps in that matter he is rather exceptional. Chan Chih-tung says, speaking of education, "that it is absolutely necessary for China to utilise Western knowledge, for knowledge alone can preserve China from destruction." He beseeches his readers to put aside their "wang" and queue, by which are understood empty form and pride and lack of energy. He urges the establishment of schools throughout China and goes so far as to say of the Temples of Buddhism and Taoism that seven out of ten should be turned into schools. These are the words of one of the greatest temporary Chinese statesmen. I think they should carry a great weight with Chinese views, and I think also they should be an encouragement to us as showing appreciation by many Chinese of the efforts we are making to spread Western knowledge amongst the Chinese. Boys, your holidays begin to-day, and I hope you will have very pleasant ones, but I would ask you not to let them be entirely idle. Spend a little time in keeping abreast of what you have learned during the past year, and I recommend you specially to read interesting and instructive works. Those of you who won prizes have your prizes to read, and those who have not will no doubt be able to borrow books or get them from the library. I wish you all pleasant holidays and a Happy New Year (applause).

Reverend F. T. Johnson stated that two years ago a liberal minded and liberal handed Chinese gentleman gave them a large cheque to provide a scholarship. He wished His Excellency to present this scholarship to the successful student, Chu Yam-tsu. It did not contain money but a token that he was the winner of the scholarship for the past year.

His Excellency presented the Ho Kom Tong scholarship to the winner and the hygiene shield to the winning team amid great applause after which the Venerable Archdeacon Banister proposed and Dr. Atkinson seconded a hearty vote of thanks to their Excellencies. The vote was carried by acclamation and cheers followed for Sir Frederick and Lady Lugard, the Lord Bishop, the headmaster and the visitors.

SUPREME COURT.

Saturday, January 18th.

In Appellate Jurisdiction.

Before the Full Court.

THE SWATOW REFORMER.

The hearing of the appeal against the decision of Mr. Justice Wise in the matter of Iu Kai shing alias Iu Chau, and in the matter of the Chinese Extradition Ordinance No. 7 of 1889 was continued. Hon. Mr. W. Rees Davies, Attorney-General, instructed by Mr. G. E. Morrell from the Crown Solicitor's office, appeared on behalf of the Crown, and Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. Otto Kong Sing represented the prisoner.

The Attorney-General resumed his argument on the point raised by Sir Henry Berkeley—that the court must have cognisance of an engagement given by the Chinese Government that the prisoner should not be placed upon his trial for any other crime than that for which he has been extradited. The Attorney-General contended that the case of Alice Woodhall, which had been quoted by Sir Henry Berkeley, proved that all the Court needed, according to the judgment of Lord Coleridge, was proof that such a provision did exist in the law of the United States.

The Chief Justice—From that point on I quite agree with you.

The Attorney-General—I submit that all Lord Coleridge required was that the provision existed in the law—he took no cognisance of the arrangement. That is precisely my position here. Do I understand that is your Lordship's view?

The Chief Justice—We will have to consider that. Will you apply yourself please to the point that the engagement must be given by the Chinese Government at Peking and not the Viceroy. I think it must be Peking.

The Attorney-General—The authority given by a Viceroy would be binding upon the Chinese Government

The Chief Justice—We must express an opinion. I am very strongly of opinion that it means Peking.

The Attorney-General—So far as diplomatic relations are concerned the engagement of a Viceroy would be binding on the Government of his country.

The Chief Justice—Suppose he passes him over to another Viceroy? What is to prevent the officer who comes from Canton, with an engagement from the Viceroy of Canton, walking the man off to Swatow?

Mr. Justice Wise was of opinion that the engagement should be given by the Chinese Government at Peking. The only other contention was that the Ordinance was badly drafted.

The Attorney-General—If your Lordships consider the question is one for the executive, the point does not arise on this motion and is not material.

The Chief Justice said that the Court would express an opinion for the purpose of guidance.

The Attorney-General—For the information of my learned friend, and the interests of his client, I may state that such a pledge has already been given for this individual. But it is not of such a character that I cannot tender it in evidence, even supposing I should call evidence on that point. I have nothing but a copy of a letter of the Chinese authorities to the British consul. But I would ask, assuming your Lordships are against me upon this point, to allow me to tender evidence that such an engagement exists.

The Chief Justice—We are both of opinion that there should be an engagement from Peking in some form or other. No ordinary person has that power in regard to his Government.

The Attorney-General quoted several cases in support of his contention that the warrant, on which a prisoner is arrested, need not describe the alleged offence in particular terms, but in general terms. The warrant was a provisional warrant.

Sir Henry Berkeley—Where is the authority?

The Chief Justice said a provisional warrant could be issued under the Fugitive Criminals Act, but was there authority under the Extradition Act?

The Attorney-General.—The discrimination is with the Magistrate. He would have to be satisfied before he issued the warrant. It had been decided that a policeman would be justified in arresting any person who on reasonable grounds, he might believe had committed a felony.

The Chief Justice—But he would have to show his reasonable grounds Supposing the provisional warrant was issued under the Fugitive Criminals Act, it would be bad because there was no subsequent one.

The Attorney-General said he would procure an affidavit from the Magistrate. The case was an important one, though it was a matter of absolute indifference to the Government whether the man was in prison or not.

The Chief Justice—All extradition cases are important.

Argument in the case was adjourned to a date to be fixed by the Court.

Monday, January 20th.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

MURDER.

Lam Kiu, alias Ma Ho, was indicted on the charge of feloniously, wilfully and of her malice aforethought killing and murdering one, Cheung Fuk, on November 17th. Prisoner pleaded not guilty, and the following jurors were called:—J. G. W. Hullmann (foreman), A. Ritchie, O. Meyer, M. A. A. Souza, E. Hyndman, R. S. Judah and H. A. Watson.

The Hon. Mr. W. Rees Davies, Attorney-General, instructed by Mr. G. E. Morrel (of the Crown Solicitor's office) appeared for the Crown, the prisoner being defended by Mr. H. G. Calthrop, who was instructed by Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Golding and Barlow).

The Attorney-General stated that the prisoner was charged with the murder of one, Cheung Fuk. The deceased was a married man, but had been living with the prisoner for five or six years, having separated from his wife. The prisoner, it appeared had a paramour named Ng Nin who had now left the Colony, and deceased strongly objected to the relationship existing between her and Ng Nin. On November 16th deceased and his nephew returned home at one o'clock in the afternoon, which was earlier than his usual hour. When he reached home he met Ng Nin coming down stairs, and the latter on seeing him, ran away. Deceased and his nephew then proceeded upstairs to see the prisoner. A quarrel took place, and it appeared that the deceased finally beat the prisoner with an umbrella. All these facts would be spoken to by the nephew. On November 17th the nephew went to deceased's house again and found him rolling on his bed in agony and apparently unable to speak. He rolled from the bed on to the ground, and his nephew lifted him up and asked in the presence of the prisoner what was the matter with him. He was unable to speak, but he pointed to the prisoner, then to his mouth and then to a small bowl on the table. Prisoner tried to run out of the house with a box belonging to the deceased, but his nephew stopped her and questioned her as to what had taken place, but she gave no answer. Later the nephew again found the prisoner trying to run away and to carry off deceased's box, which contained $30. He took her back to the room and when he got there he found that deceased was dead. A Chinese constable was then placed in charge of the house, and deceased's nephew went and reported the occurrence at No. 7 Police Station. On his return to the house he found that a small bowl had been removed. He would tell the Court that he previously examined this bowl, which contained a black liquid. He dipped his finger in this liquid, tasted it, and found it had a very bitter taste. Next day, on searching the house, the nephew found a bundle of leaves hidden under some firewood. When the police arrived and searched the premises they found a small basin and a cooking pot. They also found the man dead and the woman very ill. She was removed to the Government Civil Hospital, where she arrived in a semi-conscious condition, and the doctor would say that the symptoms from which she was suffering were those of vegetable poisoning. A little girl would be called who would say she saw her mother put some green leaves into the basin, and pour some liquid into it, which she gave to deceased. She would also say that she saw her mother hide the leaves under the wood where they were found.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty, and his Lordship passed sentence of death

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The municipal authorities at Shanghai have recently discovered a small military burial ground against the wall of the native city. It dates from the British occupation of the city in the early sixties, and has now been cleaned up and enclosed.

Wednesday, January 22nd.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

ALLEGED CONSPIRACY.

Lam Wing, Hau Kee, Li Hi-shiu and Hop Wo-tong were indicted on a charge of conspiring to defeat the ends of justice by defrauding the members of the Po Sang Bank. Prisoners pleaded not guilty, and the following jury was empanelled:—A. E. Crapnell (foreman), K. Brandes, A. Jenkins, B. Aagaard, W. T. Shewan, H. Hyndman and F. Heldt.

The Attorney-General, Hon. Mr. W. Rees Davies, instructed by Mr. G. E. Morrell (of the Crown Solicitor's office) prosecuted, and Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. R. Harding represented the defendants.

The Attorney-General informed the jurors that as they had heard from a very long indictment the prisoners were before the Court on a charge of conspiracy. The four accused were charged with conspiring to defraud the Po Sang Bank which was established in Hongkong in July of last year. If two or more persons conspired together to defeat or defraud any individual or class of individuals they were in law guilty of conspiracy or conspiring to defraud. The present case arose out of an action brought by the first accused in the Summary Court, a writ being issued by him on September 2nd in which he claimed as endorsee to one Hau Kee from the defendants (the Po Sang Bank) the sum of $[illegible] amount of principal and interest due on a promissory note; or in the alternative he claimed as assignee for Hau Kee the sum of $[illegible] for money lent. To put it in simple phraseology the first accused brought an action against a Chinese bank alleging that he was endorsee to the holder of a promissory note which had been given by the bank for $[illegible] in favour of Hau Kee. On the trial of that action the first accused swore that the promissory note was endorsed over to him by Hau Kee. The second swore that he handed the bank manager $[illegible], and that the bank gave him a promissory note in respect of that. he also stated he saw the bank manager chop the note. The third accused was called and gave evidence to the effect that he received a note for $[illegible] chopped in the same way as the former one, this he said was given in respect of money paid into the bank. He also stated that he saw the bank manager chop the promissory note. That statement as well as the last was denied by the bank manager. The latter would say that he had seen the third prisoner for the first time in the Summary Court. The fourth accused was also called, and he gave similar evidence in regard to another note for $[illegible] in respect of money paid into the bank by him, which was chopped by the manager, and which as before, the latter denied, stating that the whole affair is a forgery. The banking firm said this was one gigantic conspiracy to defraud them. Undoubtedly it was a curious case, and there was what we call a great deal of hard swearing in the action before Mr. Justice Wise. All the Attorney General could say in conclusion was that when the jury had heard the evidence, if the prosecution could substantiate the case, it disclosed a most barefaced and deliberate conspiracy on the part of these four men.

The hearing was adjourned

Tuesday, January 21st

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE)

A FORGED BANK NOTE.

Ng Fuk, alias Ma Fong, was arraigned on a charge of uttering a forged bank note, and on a second count of being in unlawful possession of a forged bank note. Prisoner pleaded not guilty, and the following jurors were called: J. Lockhead (foreman), R. Sutherland, A. D. Galloway, J. E. Danielsen, B. Aagaard, A. Jenkins and Ho U ming. The Attorney-General, Hon. Mr. W. Rees Davies, instructed

by Mr. G. E. Morrell (of the Crown Solicitor's office) prosecuted, prisoner being undefended.

The Attorney-General stated that on December 15th prisoner went to a house of ill-fame on the Praya. There he handed a woman a $5 note purporting to be a note on the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. The girl took the money to the mistress to change it, and returned the prisoner $3 in twenty cent pieces. Shortly after this the mistress heard that one of her other girls was in police custody, and went to the station to bail her out. As she was required to produce $25 she returned home for the money. Amongst the bills produced was the $5 bill which the girl had received from the prisoner. The police immediately observed that it was a counterfeit note, and on information given them by the mistress they proceeded to the brothel and arrested the defendant. On his person was found another $5 note, also counterfeit. The prisoner on being charged by the police stated that he won the two notes playing fantan at Canton, and that he had no knowledge they were forged. The point on which the jury would have to be satisfied was that he uttered the note knowing it to be forged, and that he was in possession of a note which he knew to be forged.

After hearing the evidence the jury returned a verdict of not guilty and the prisoner was discharged.

COMPANIES.

THE HONGKONG LAND RECLAMATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

The sixth report of the Board of Directors to the ordinary meeting of shareholders to be held at the Company's Offices, on Tuesday, January 28th, reads:—

Gentlemen, The Directors have now to submit to you a general statement of the affairs of the Company, and balance sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1907.

The net profits for the year, including $349,841.05 brought forward from last account after paying all charges amount to $358,135.99. It is now proposed to pay a dividend of 7 per cent on the paid up capital after providing for which and writing off Directors' and Auditor's fees there remains a balance of $287,410.99 to be carried to credit of a new Profit and Loss Account.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. D. M. Nissim having resigned, Mr. E. Shellim was invited to join the Board and this appointment now requires confirmation.

Messrs. E. Shellim and Ho Tung, now retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS

The accounts have been audited by Messrs W. H. Potts and A. O'D. Gourdin, who now retire and are recommended for re-election.

HENRY KESWICK,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 14th January, 1908.

BALANCE SHEET
To 31st December, 1907.

Dec. 31 1907. LIABILITIES.	$ c.
Capital—25,000 shares at $100 each $2,500,000, of which are issued 12,500 shares at $100 each $1,250,000, $75 per share paid up	937,500.00
Loans payable	300,000.05
Accounts payable	30.85
Balance of profit and loss account	358,135.99
	$1,595,666.84

Dec. 31 1907. ASSETS	$ c.
Cash	1,534.17
Amount invested in mortgages	272,172.69
Amount invested in property	1,212,490.58
Furniture	658.31
Accounts receivable	108,811.07
	$1,595,666.84

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

1907. Dr. December 31st	$ c.
To charges account	7,523.67
,, repairs to property	344.00
,, crown rent account	1,894.00
,, Government rates account	446.16
,, Fire Insurance account	487.75
Balance to be appropriated as follows —	
Directors' fees $ 5,000.00	
Auditors' fees 100.00	
Dividend of 7 per cent for the year 65,625.00	
Balance to be carried to new account 287,410.99	
	358,135.99
	$368,868.57

January 1st	Cr.
By balance from 1906	349,841.05
December 31st.	
,, interest	12,945.22
,, rents	6,017.30
,, scrip fees	25.00
	$368,828.57

WEST POINT BUILDING COMPANY LIMITED.

The nineteenth report of the General Agents to the Ordinary Meeting of Shareholders to be held at the Company's Offices, on January 28th reads:

GENTLEMEN,—The General Agents now submit to you a statement of the affairs of the Company, and balance sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1907.

The net profits for the year, including the amount brought forward from the previous year, amount to $53.3 1.31. From this amount an Interim Dividend of $2.00 per share has already been paid, and after writing off Directors' and Auditor's fees, it is now proposed to pay a final dividend of $2.10 per share, making a total dividend for the twelve months of $4.10 per share, and to carry forward the balance of $1,541.31 to credit of a new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, having retired, Hon. Mr. H. Keswick has been appointed in his stead, and this appointment now requires confirmation.

Hon. Sir Paul Chater and Mr. A. G. Wood retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDIT.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. C. W. May, who offers himself for re-election.

A. SHELTON HOOPER,
Secretary to the Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co. Ld.
General Agents for the West Point Building Co. Ld.

Hongkong, 14th January 1908.

BALANCE SHEET to 31st December 1907.

Dec. 31, 1907. LIABILITIES.	$ c.
Capital	625,000.00
Accounts payable	965.14
Balance of profit and loss account $53,311.31	
Less interim dividend paid 25,000.00	
	28,311.31
	$654,246.45

Dec. 31, 1907. ASSETS.	$ c.
Cost of property	614,891.81
Cash	39,354.64
	$654,246.45

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

Dec. 31 1907. Dr.	$ c.
To fire insurance	1,322.75
To charges	242.90
To Crown rent	818.00
To repairs to buildings	1,632.31
To commission to agents	2,727.47
To interim dividend of $2.00 for half-year	25,000.00
To balance to be appropriated as follows	
Directors' fees $500.00	
Auditor's fees 50.00	
Dividend of $2.10 per share 26,250.00	
Balance to be carried to new account 1,541.31	
	28,341.31
	$60,084.74

Jan. 1st 1907 Cr.	$ c.
By balance brought forward	1,599.47
Dec. 31st, 1907	
By rents	60,000.00
By interest	512.27
By scrip fees	23.00
	$62,084.74

HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY CO., LTD.

The nineteenth report of the board of directors to the ordinary meeting of shareholders to be held at the company's offices, January, 28th reads:—

Gentlemen,—The directors have now to submit to you a general statement of the affairs of the Company, and balance sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1907.

The net profits for that period, including $56,218.38 balance brought forward from last account, after paying all charges, amount to $420,946.43. From this amount an interim dividend of $3.50 per share has already been paid. It is now proposed to pay a final dividend of $3.50 per share, and after writing off Director's and Auditors' fees there remains a balance $36,915.47 to be carried forward to the credit of a new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Messrs. N. A. Siebs, D. M. Nissim and A. Haupt having resigned, Messrs. A. Fuchs, E. Shellim and G. Friesland were invited to join the Board in their places and these appointments now require confirmation.

Messrs. G. Friesland and A. Fuchs now retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs C. W. May and H. Percy Smith, who now retire, but offer themselves for re election.

HENRY KESWICK,
Chairman.

Hongkong 14th January, 1908.

BALANCE SHEET TO 31st December, 1907.

Dec. 31 1907. LIABILITIES.	$ c.
Capital	5,000,000.00
Equalization of dividend fund	250,000.00
Accounts payable	1,607,056.54
Balance of profit and loss account. $420,946.43	
Less interim dividend paid, 175,000.43	
	245,946.43
	$7,103,002.97

Dec. 31 1907 ASSETS	$ c.
Cash	6,213.88
Amount advanced on mortgage	933,700.00
Amount invested in property	6,101,883.87
Furniture account	4,190.42
Account receivable	57,014.80
	$7,103,002.97

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT
for the year ending 31st December, 1907.

Dec. 31 1907 Dr.	$ c.
To interim dividend of 3½ per cent. for the half-year	175,000.00
To charges account	29,899.89
To repairs to house property	17,483.79
To advertising	1,170.49
To fire insurance	20,129.37
To legal expenses	587.50
To interest on loans payable, $106,028.06	
Less interest on Mortgages, 88,909.01	
	17,119.05
To balance to be appropriated as follows —	
Directors Fees $ 7,500.00	
Managing directors' Fees 25,530.96	
Auditors fees 1,000.00	
Final dividend of 3½ per cent for the half-year, 175,000.00	
Balance to be carried to new account 36,915.47	
	245,946.43
	$507,336.53

Jan. 1, 1907 Cr.	$ c.
By undivided profits, 1906	56,218.38
Dec. 31, 1907.	
By rents	441,086.82
By commission	9,905.93
By scrip fees	126.00
	$507,336.53

HUMPHREYS ESTATE AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

The report of the Directors for the year ending 31st December, 1907, for presentation to the shareholders at the ordinary annual general meeting of the Company, to be held at the registered offices of the Company, on January, 31st reads:—

To the Shareholders of Humphreys Estate and finance Co., Ltd.

Gentlemen,—The Directors now beg to submit to you their report and statement of accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1907.

The net profit for that period amounts to $108,948.84

To which has to be added the balance brought forward from last account ... $11,567.15

$120,515.99

And from this have to be deducted :—

Remuneration to Directors 5 per cent. Commission on net profits	$5,447 44	
Remuneration to General Managers 5 per cent. Commission on net profits	5,447.44	
		10,894.88
Leaving available for appropriation		$109,621.11

The Directors recommend that a dividend of seven per cent. on the paid-up capital be paid to shareholders, absorbing $ 05,0:0.00 and that the balance of $4,621.11 be carried to a new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

During the year Dr. J. W. Noble was offered and accepted a seat on the Board. The Directors now are :—Messrs. A. G. Wood, J. Scott Harston, H. A. W. Slade, J. S Van Buren, Ho Tung, and Dr. J. W. Noble. In accordance with rule 76 of the Company's Articles of Association they all retire, but being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS

Mr. W. U. Gaskell having resigned, his place has been taken by Mr. H Percy Smith, who has, in conjunction with Mr. W. Hutton Potts, audited the accounts. Mr. Potts and Mr. Percy Smith offer themselves for re-election.

HENRY HUMPHREYS,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 17th January, 1908.

BALANCE SHEET.

For the year ending 31st December, 1907.

LIABILITIES.

Capital account :—150,000 shares at $10 each		$1,500,000.00
Insurance reserve fund		217,426.00
Fund for equalization of dividend		50,000.00
Mortgages		30,000.00
Sundry creditors		42,275.70
Uncla med dividends		3,976.59
Profit and loss account :—		
Amount carried forward from 1906	$ 11,567.15	
For the year 1907	108,948.84	
		120,515.99
		$1,961,194.28

ASSETS.

Amount invested in property	$1,621,096.56
Amount invested on mortgage	310,712.57
Accounts receivable	28,034.64
Office furniture	528.00
Fire insurance premia unexpired	419.70
Cash in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and on hand	3,403.78
	$1,964,194.28

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr. December 31st, 1907.

To fire insurance premia	$ 6,6 8.62
To crown rent	5,099.32
To general charges	2,442 15
To allowance to general managers to cover office rent and salaries of secretary and clerks	8,000.00
To repairs	3,599.29
To auditors' fees	250.00
To balance	120,515.99
	$145,475 77

Cr. January 1st, 1907.

By balance carried forward from 1906	$ 11,567.15
December 31st, 1907	
By rents	1-1,42 .02
By interest	32,2 5 47
By transfer fees	192.00
By commission	91 13
	$145,475.77

COMMERCIAL.

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report dated Hongkong, 24th February, state that 14 steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 66,700 tons of coal. Since January 11th 10 steamers have arrived with a total of 37,330 tons of coal. Market quiet.

Quotations :—

Cardiff	$ — to $ — ex-ship, nominal
Australian	$11.50 ex-ship, sellers.
Yubari Lump	$12.00 nominal.
Miiki Lump	$10.00 nominal.
Moji Lump	$6.50 to $9.00 ex-ship, steady.
Moji Unscreened	$6.00 to $8.00 ex-ship, steady.
Akaike Lump	$8.50 to $9.00 steady.
Labuan Lump	$8.25 nominal.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, January, 23rd.

Quotations are :—Allowance net to 1 catty.

Malwa New	$940	to —	per picul.
Malwa Old	$980	to —	do.
Malwa Older	$1020	to —	do.
Malwa Very Old	$1050	to —	do.
Persian Fine Quality	$800	to —	do.
Persian Extra Fine	$860	to —	do.
Patna New	$955	to —	per chest.
Patna Old	$950	to —	do.
Benares New	$950	to —	do.
Benares Old	$—	to —	do.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report, dated Hongkong 24th January, 1908, states :—Soon after the departure of last mail an unexpected brisk demand from the country set in, and a much larger business has been done during the interval than has been the case for some months past. The demand has been general and almost all counts have been dealt in, No. 10s attracting by far the largest amount of attention and forming nearly two-thirds of the settlements. Values have appreciated $1 to $4 per bale, the favourite count participating largely in the advance. No. 20s have been in fair request for the Northern and Tonkin markets and show a small advance. No. 12s continue unchanged and great disparity is observable in the prices of this count as compared with those of No. 10s, of one and the same spinning. Supplies are running down and if shipments are maintained on their present scale, importers will have a chance of working off old holdings which have been unsaleable for many months. The market closes strong with an improved prospect. Sales of the interval aggregate 7,881 bales, arrivals amount to 2,365, unsold stock estimated at 41,000 and sold but uncleared bales in second hands at 17,000 bales. Local Manufacture: Nothing doing. Japanese Yarn:—Sales of 135 bales No. 20s at $118 to $134 are reported. Raw Cotton :—The market in India is very strong and sales here are checked by the firmness of holders. Sales reported are 270 bales superfine Bengals at $24 to 25 and 100 bales China at $25½. Stocks are $1,650 bales Indian and 1450 bales China. Quotations are $20 to 25 Indian and $24 to 26½ China. Exchange on India has fluctuated slightly and closes steady to-day at Rs 143½ for T/T and Rs. 143¾ for Post. On Shanghai 73 and on Japan 94. The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 18th instant, viz:—Indian:—With a brisk demand and firm holders prices have advanced 1 to 2 Taels per bale, market closing firm. Total sales about 6,500 bales with an estimated stock of 62,000 unsold, and 20,000 uncleared bales. Japanese:—About 2,000 bales No. 16s and No. 20s are reported to have changed hands on the basis of Tls. 89 to 93 and Tls. 96 to 105. Local:—About 3,000 bales are reported sold at unaltered rates.

PIECE GOODS

From Messrs. Ilbert & Co.'s Weekly Market Report, dated Shanghai, January 16th, 1908 :—As China New Year approaches business usually becomes stagnant, and this year is no exception to the rule; although large lines of goods are obtainable from stock at considerably less than they could be replaced for. Chinese show no anxiety to buy, which is perhaps natural enough, as they have unsold stocks of their own for which they cannot get even the comparatively low prices now being asked by foreign importers. There is no weakness in the market, as every one hopes that when business is resumed, after China New Year, there will be a revival and some real activity based on consumptive demand; in the meantime the majority of importers are prepared to wait and look on. Written advices from Manchester report a large business having been done for China in the finer makes of grey shirtings and telegrams are to the effect that small purchases are going on for this market in standard makes; New York also advises purchases for Shanghai, & for Tientsin direct, so that some importers have evidently confidence in the future although there is a wide margin between current rates here and the prices paid on the other side. All the producing markets are firm, and if demand continues there is a prospect of cotton being in short supply before the new season's crop can be placed on the market. Exchange is perhaps the most important factor at the moment in preventing Chinese from laying down supplies for Spring. The changes are so rapid that great uncertainty hangs over the trade from day to day, which tends to curtail operations on a large scale. As usual at this time of year dealers are beginning to occupy themselves with their annual accounts and show but little interest in fresh business. T.-Cloths.—A sale of Four Birds at Tls. 3.05 is all that we hear of. Auctions firm. Jeans.—A better feeling is noticeable and sales have been made public in Beaver Seven Lines and Beaver Five Lines. Prices at auction improved for some makes and declined for others. White Shirtings.—The tone of the market is improving steadily, though operations are naturally limited by the approach of China New Year. Auction chops were firmer all round. Drills and Sheetings.—In the former no business appears to have been done and quotations are practically unchanged. Newchwang Merchants have been looking round for further small supplies of American Sheetings and we hear that resales have been made to that port. Dyed and Fancy Cottons.—We have nothing much of interest to report under this heading, Chinese being still content with picking up cheap second-hand lots whenever they have any orders to fill. Fast Black Cotton Lastings were very irregular at the auctions, but the general tendency was towards slightly lower prices. Worsteds and Woollens.—Business has been confined to the auctions where all Woollen goods were steady to firm. Cotton.—The market for the local staple has shown but little life during the week, and prices have undergone very little change; Yarn.—The uncertainty of exchange from day to day naturally disorganized business in Indian and Japanese Spinnings to a great extent, but the market generally speaking is rather firmer, and more especially for good Indian 20s. Local yarn is quiet but steady.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai 17th January, 1908, states :—The indications seem to be that the market is practically already closed for the annual settling, although China New Year is still more than a fortnight off yet. Stocks have got into strong hands now for the most part, and the intention is to hold them for all they are worth, at least as far as staple goods go, but with Fancy makes the liquidation is a very painful and lingering process. With the Auctions offering opportunities of buying for delivery a month ahead the same terms are wanted for private sales, but first hand holders are more disposed to take the risk of the market themselves if the transaction has to be kept open for so long. Exchange has been much more steady during the interval, but its future movements are just as uncertain as ever. Cotton has proved a strengthening feature, but there is a cloud hanging over the Lancashire trade which has become more portentous during the interval. We refer to the threatened lock-out of operatives which is assuming enormous proportions. From the meagre information contained in the public telegrams, beyond the fact that upwards of 200,000 operatives are likely to be affected, it has been quite impossible to grasp the situation that has been created so suddenly. One explanation is that on account of the shortness of the staple of much of the Cotton this season, the operatives demand an increase in wages owing to the extra work entailed, while on the other hand spinners want to reduce the wages to counteract the additional cost of running their machines, which would otherwise be done at an actual dead loss. A decision is to be arrived at on the 18th instant. In the meantime there is next to nothing going on between this market and Manchester, which is unchanged from last week. Cotton has recovered in the Liverpool market and after one or two slight reactions closed yesterday at 6.29d for Mid American. The quotation "Futures" yesterday was 5.84d when the spot price was 6.24d. Some further purchases are reported in New York for this market, chiefly light Sheetings, but it is to be hoped free buying will not be encouraged until the stock in this market be substantially reduced. There will probably be room for fresh supplies of Drills about May or June, but there are sufficient Sheetings here to keep the trade from want for the next seven or eight months. The latest New York Cotton quotation is 10.90 for March option. Clearances for the River have kept fairly satisfactory. Small supplies are going North via Chingwantao and Dalny, the conditions of trade in both Tientsin and Newchwang having improved somewhat, the financial position being rather better. Stocks. The Returns are by no means complete yet, several prominent holders of stocks having failed to send them in. If this is not done by the 20th instant it will be impossible to publish them in time for the next mail. As regards transactions during the interval, they have continued on a retail scale, but the selling from first hands is by no means general.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 9th Jan., 1908.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

		Per picul.
Cowhides, Best selected	Tls.	28.50
Do. Seconds	,,	24.50
Buffalo hides, Best selected	,,	23.00
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour,	,,	50.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	,,	—
White China Grass, Wuchang and or Poochi	,,	9.80
White China Grass, Sinshan and or Chayu	,,	—
Green China Grass, Szechuen	,,	9.00
Jute	,,	—
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	,,	10.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	,,	10.20
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	,,	—
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	,,	10.50
Animal Tallow	,,	10.30
Gallnuts, usual shape	,,	15.00
Gallnuts, plum do.	,,	17.00
Tobacco, Tingchow	,,	—
Tobacco, Wongkong	,,	—
Turmeric	,,	—
Sesamum Seed	,,	5.70
Sesamum Seed Oil	,,	—
Wood Oil	,,	8.45
Tea Oil	,,	—

FREIGHTS.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 45 - per ton of 40 c. ft. plus River freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 45/- per ton of 40 c. ft plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 30/- per ton of 40 c. ft plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) Tea 37 6 per ton of 40 c. ft plus river freight. To New York (Overland) per carload Tea G. $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per lb gross; less than carload Tea G. $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per lb gross plus river freight To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo Tls. 1.60 to 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

From Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Freight Market Report, dated Shanghai, 16th January, 1908, states:—As predicted in our last there has been next to nothing offering for export during the past two weeks and boats loading on all the berths have received very poor support, principally owing to the very erratic fluctuations in exchange which seem to have paralyzed trade. Coastwise.—As usual immediately before China New Year we have now reached our dullest season and althought the liners manage to keep up their regular runs there is little or nothing doing for "outsiders" and we are afraid there is not much chance of any improvement setting in at any rate for a month or two.

SHARE REPORTS.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending 16th January, 1908, states:—Since our last, business in the Stock market has not been very brisk. The bulk of the week's trade has as usual been in Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf shares for March delivery. Beyond this delivery little or nothing has been done in the stock at current rates. The T. T. on London to-day is 2/6$\frac{1}{2}$. Banks.—Hongkong & Shanghai Banks. Shares have been on offer all the week at $740 and $735 for the old and new respectively, and declined further on the publication on the 14th of the dividend. Without business we would quote rates at closing as $730 & $725 sellers. Ins. —Unions. Shares have changed hands at $815 Rate in Hongkong is quoted at $830. Yangtsze Insurance. There are buyers of old and new respectively at 147\frac{1}{2}$ and $137\frac{1}{2}$. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas. Nothing can be done in this stock at present. There are sellers at Tls. 20$\frac{1}{2}$ and Tls. 19$\frac{1}{2}$ for preferred and deferred respectively. Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co. The ordinary shares are on offer at Tls. 46, and the preference at Tls. 50. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co., Ld. since our last have had a good advance, and rates at closing are Tls. 77$\frac{1}{2}$ for Jan. and Tls. 80 for March, nominal. Shanghai Hongkew Wharf Co.. The market opened with sales reported at Tls. 214 for January and Tls. 220 for March, and large quantities were dealt in at the latter rates, when a relapse set in. The March rate has fallen to Tls. 217. A small lot of cash shares were dealt in yesterday at Tls. 211. Sugars.—Nothing reported. Mining. —Nothing reported. Lands.—There are shares on the market at Tls. 104. Anglo-French Lands. Shares are wanted at Tls. 101$\frac{1}{2}$ Industrial.—There has been a fair business done in Ewo Cottons at Tls. 58, Tls. 59 and Tls. 60 for March, and Tls. 61, Tls. 62 and Tls. 63 for June. The demand ceased as abruptly as it commenced and the market closes with sellers. Internationals, sellers at Tls. 53 and Tls. 55 for March. Laou Kung Mows. Shares have advanced to Tls. 75. Shanghai Gas Co. Shares are wanted at Tls. 110. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats. This market has been quiet during the week, and there has been but very little variation. The cash rate is Tls. 370 and the March rate Tls 380$\frac{1}{2}$. Shanghai Sumatras have slightly declined to Tls. 126$\frac{1}{2}$. for cash and Tls. 127$\frac{1}{2}$ for March sellers. Miscellaneous.—There is no business actually reported. Loans and Debentures.—There has been a fair demand for all kinds of Debentures at quotations

HONGKONG, 24th January, 1908.—Business during the past week has ruled dull, but rates on the whole have remained fairly steady, with persistent enquiries for many of the most favoured stocks, which promises well for the future, and gives hope of renewed activity after the approaching China New Year settlement has been dealt with. Exchange on London is unchanged at 1/10$\frac{1}{4}$ T. T, the rate on Shanghai being 74$\frac{1}{2}$ T T. The Bank of England rate of discount has been further reduced to 4 per cent. and the open market rates to 3$\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for 3 months bills and 3$\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for 6 months bills. Consols are quoted at £84$\frac{1}{2}$, and bar silver at 25 11/16d

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghais have been booked at $710 and $715 for the old issue, but at the close are somewhat easier with a few shares obtainable at $710. Latest London advices quote £70 and £78 for the old and new issues respectively. Nationals are again unaltered and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES Unions are slightly firmer with sales and probable buyers at 827\frac{1}{2}$ Yangtszes have improved in the North to $150 for the old, and $140 for the new issue. Cantons and North Chinas are still procurable at last quotations

FIRE INSURANCES. — Hongkongs have again been booked at $335 and more shares are wanted. Sales of Chinas have been effected at 895 closing steady. We learn that in the recent disastrous fire in Shanghai the former Co has escaped without loss, whilst the latter is interested only to the amount of Tls. 2,000.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macaos continue neglected with sellers at $20. Indos have declined to 38\frac{1}{2}$ and $26\frac{1}{2}$ for the preferred and deferred combined at which rates sales have been effected. Star Ferries are still enquired for at quotations, and Shells at £3 ex the second interim dividend of 1 - per share on ordinary shares on account of 1907 (Coupon No. 9) paid in London on the 1st instant.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have slightly improved with sales at $108, and 108\frac{1}{2}$ closing with buyers at $108 and probable sellers at $109 Luzons have been booked at $11, but holders are now endeavouring to obtain a higher rate.

MINING.—Raubs are easier with sellers at 8\frac{1}{2}$. Chinese Engineerings are still enquired for at Tls. 15, and Charbonnages at $500.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks are firmer with buyers at $97. Kowloon Wharves have been booked at $55 and $53 for the old and new issues respectively, and close firm Shanghai Docks have been negociated at Tls. 76 cash and Tls. 78 March, and close with probable buyers at Tls. 73 ex the interim dividend of Tls. 2$\frac{1}{2}$ per share on account of 1907, paid in Shanghai on the 20th instant. Shanghai & Hongkew Wharves, after advancing to Tls 215 have receded to Tls. Tls. 211$\frac{1}{2}$, at which rate a sale has been effected as we close.

LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have ruled very firm during the interval with sales at $99, $100 and $101, closing with buyers at $100. Kowloon Lands and West Points are unaltered, as are also Hongkong Hotels, which are still enquired for at $104. Humphreys' Estates have been booked at 10\frac{1}{2}$. Shanghai Lands have further improved to Tls. 106.

COTTON MILLS.—Quotations are unchanged and we have no business to report.

MISCELLANEOUS. — China-Providen's have been done at 9\frac{1}{2}$, and Green Island Cements at 11\frac{1}{2}$, the latter closing with buyers. Electrics are wanted at 14\frac{1}{2}$, Ropes at 24\frac{1}{2}$, and Powells at 5\frac{1}{2}$. Philippines are enquired for at $6, and Watsons at 10\frac{1}{2}$ after sales at 10\frac{1}{2}$. Langkats have had a further substantial advance in the North and are now quoted at Tls. 395.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	Ps. 200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shai...	$125	$710, sellers
	$125	$705, sellers
		Ln. £79
		Ln. £78
National B. of China	£8	$51
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	12s. 6d.	7\frac{1}{4}$, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	$12	10\frac{1}{4}$, sales
China Light & P. Co	$10	$6, sellers
	$1	
China Provident	$10	9\frac{1}{4}$, sales
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 59
Hongkong	$10	$10, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 52
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 65
Soychee	Tls 500	Tls. 270
Dairy Farm	$6	$17, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K Wharf & G	$50	$55, old
		$53, new
H & W Dock	$50	$97, buyers
New Amoy Dock	$61	$10, sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng Co., Ld	Tls 100	Tls 73, x d.
Shai & H Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 211
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	$25	$14
G. Island Cement	$10	11\frac{1}{4}$, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	$10	14\frac{1}{4}$, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co	$50	$104, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co	$25	$24
Hongkong Rope Co	$10	24\frac{1}{4}$, buyers
Insurances—		
Canton	$50	242\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
China Fire	$20	295, sales
China Traders	$25	$91, buyers
Hongkong Fire	$50	$335, sales & buy.
North China	£5	Tls. 87, sellers
Union	$100	827\frac{1}{2}$, sales
Yangtsze	$60	147\frac{1}{2}$
		$135
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	$100	$100, buyers
Humphrey's Estate	$10	$10, buyers
Kowloon Land & B	$30	$35, sellers
Shanghai Land	Tls 50	Tls. 106
West Point Building	$50	$50
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fes. 250	$500, buyers
Raubs	18 10	8\frac{1}{4}$, sellers
Peak Tramways	$10	$13
	$1	$2, sales
Philippine Co	$10	$6, buyers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	$100	$100
Luzon Sugar	$100	$12, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila...	$25	$15
Douglas Steamship	$50	$40
H., Canton & M.	$15	$29, sellers
Indo-China S. N Co	£5	38\frac{1}{4}$, sales
		26\frac{1}{4}$, sales
Shell Transport Co	£1	44/-, x.d.
Star Ferry	$10	$24
Do. New	$5	12\frac{1}{4}$
South China M. Post.	$25	$20
Steam Laundry Co.	$5	$6, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries		
Campbell, M & Co	$10	$14
Powell & Co., Wm.	$10	5\frac{1}{4}$, sales
Watsons	$10	2\frac{1}{4}$, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S	$10	10\frac{1}{4}$, buyers
United Asbestos	$4	$10, buyers
Do. Founders	$ 0	$150, buyers
Union Watertoat Co.	$10	$11, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, January 24th

ON LONDON.—Telegraphic Transfer	1/10 7/8
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10 15/16
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11 1/16
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/4
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11 3/16
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11 9/16
ON PARIS.—Bank Bills, on demand	246 1/2
Credits 4 months' sight	246 1/2
ON GERMANY.—On demand	195 1/2
ON NEW YORK.—Bank Bills, on demand	46 1/4
Credits, 60 days' sight	47 1/4
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	143 1/4
Bank, on demand	143 1/4
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	143 1/4
Bank on demand	143 1/4
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	74 1/4
Private, 30 days' sight	75 1/4
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	93 1/4
ON MANILA.—On demand	93 1/4
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	21 1/4 p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	114 1/4
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	4 3/4 p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON—On demand	4 1/2 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	78
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	$10.30
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	$54.65
BAR SILVER, per oz	25 11/16

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

			per cent	
Chinese	20 cents pieces	$5.15	discount,	
„	10 „ „	5.50	„	
Hongkong	20 „ „	4.80	„	
„	10 „ „	5.15	„	

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

January— ARRIVALS.

17, Nord, British str., from Singapore.
17, Onsarg, British str., from Java.
17, Samsen, German str., from Bangkok.
17, Shinshu Maru, Japanese str., from Moji
17, Taming, British str., from Manila.
17, Wongkoi, German str., from Hoihow.
18, Amigo, German str, from Hoihow.
18, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
18, Dortmund, German str., from Shanghai
18, Fukushu Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
18, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
18, Helene, German str., from Hoihow.
18, Kiukiang, British str, from Shanghai
18, Kumamoto Maru, Jap. str., from Takao.
18, Ovid, British str., from Moji.
18, Shoshu Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
18, Wakamatsu Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
18, Wosang, British str., from Shanghai.
18, Yingchow, British str., from Chinwantao.
19, Anghin, German str., from Bangkok.
19, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
19, Malte, French str., from Antwerp.
19, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
19, Kaifong, British str., from Iloilo.
19, Salazie, French str., from Yokohama.
19, Suisang, British str., from Hongay.
20, Cheongshing, British str., from Tientsin.
20, Childar, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
20, Empire, British str., from Moji.
20, Glenfalloch, Brit. str., from Singapore.
20, Hakata Maru, Jap str., from Shanghai.
20, Holstein, German str., from Haiphong.
20, Kumano Maru, Jap str., from Australia.
20, Moyune, British str., from Shanghai.
20, Oceanien, French str., from Marseilles.
20, Singan, British str., from Haiphong.
20, Taiwan, Brit. str., from Fan Rang Bay.
20, Wuhu, British str., from Chinkiang.
20, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
20, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
21, Derwent, British str., from Saigon.
21, Luchow, British str., from Weihaiwei.
21, Nikko Maru, Japanese str., from Nagasaki.
21, Siberia, Am. str., from San Francisco.
22, Hilary, German str., from Macassar
22, Jeserie, British str., from Yokohama
22, Joshin Maru, Japanese str, from Tamsui.
22, Kumsang, British str., from Singapore.
22, Mandasan M., Jap. str., from Kuchinotsu.
22, Murex, British str., from Pulo Sambo.
22, Pitsanulok, German str., from Bangkok.
22, Siam, Danish str., from Moji.
22, Taishun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
22, Yetorofu Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
23, Arcadia, British str., from Yokohama.
23, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
23, Peninsular, British str., from Bombay.

January— DEPARTURES.

17, Arratoon Apcar, Brit. str., for Singapore.
17, Flintshire, British str., for Shanghai.
17, Germania, German str, for Sydney.
17, Haimun, British str. for Swatow.
17, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
17, Meefoo, Chinese str, for Shanghai.
17, Nippon, Austrian str., for Singapore.
17, Petchaburi, German str.. for Swatow.
17, Petronia, Russian str., for Shanghai.
18, Chowtai, German str., for Swatow.
18, Drufar, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
18, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
18, Korea, American str., for San Francisco.
18, Kweiyang, British str., for Hoihow.
18, Michael Jebsen, German str., for Saigon.
18, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
19, Anglo-Saxon, British str., for Calcutta.
19, Austria, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
19, Clara Jebsen, German str., for Saigon.
19, Daijin Maru, Japanese str, for Swatow.
19, Dortmund, German str, for Singapore.
19, Johanne, German str., for Swatow.
19, Tjimahi, Dutch str, for Samarang.
19, Woolwich, British str., for Saigon.
19, Yochow, British str.. for Ningpo.
20, Namsang, British str., for Shanghai.
20, Oceanien, French str, for Shanghai.
21, Ganges, British str., for Calcutta.
21, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
21, Hargsang, British str., for Swatow.
21, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
21, Hopsang, British str., for Moji.
21, Hsinkong, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
21, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow
21, Moyune, British str, for Singapore.
21, Nord, British str., for Manila.
21, Salazie, French str. for Europe, &c.
21, Shinshu Maru, Japanese str., for Saigon.
21, Shoshu Maru, Japanese str, for Swatow.
21, Taming, British str., for Manila.
21, Tosa Maru, Japanese str., for Shanghai.
22, Catherine Apcar, Brit. str, for Singapore.
22, Choising, German str, for Swatow.
22, Fukushu Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
22, Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.
22, Hakata Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
22, Helene, German str., for Swatow.
22, Holstein, German str, for Haiphong
22, Kiangping, Chinese str., for Chinkiang.
22, Kumano Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
22, Malte, French str., for Shanghai
22, Ragnar, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
22, Telemachus, British str., for Saigon.
22, Wakamatsu Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
23, Heliopolis, British str., for Durban.
23, Kaifong, British str, for Cebu.
23, Siam, Danish str., for Singapore.
23, Wongkoi, German str, for Bangkok.
23, Wosang, British str., for Swatow.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Arcadia*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Miss Joseph, Mr Morrison and servant; for Singapore, Mr Forster; for Bombay, Mrs Blumenthal and daughter; for Marseilles, Mr Short; for London, Mr and Mrs Shallard, infant & amah, Miss Harvey, Messrs. Watson, Smith, Lloyd Williams, and Nesbitt; from Yokohama, for Penang, Mr Samuel.

Per *Peninsular*, for Hongkong, from London, Miss B. Wood, Messrs. W. Burgess, and W. Pringle; from Marseilles, Rev. Thompson, Rev. A. E. Davies, Messrs. J. Boyd, and L. P. Soloman; from Bombay, Mr and Mrs Arasia, Messrs. D. B. Kasarana, and R. L. Hordern; from Singapore, Mrs C. H. Jones, Messrs. W. H Burt, and F. Ritchie; for Shanghai, from London, Mr and Mrs Nicholas, from Marseilles, Dr. J. P. Ziersogel, and Mr F. Soutes; from Brindisi, Capt. M. McNeill, Messrs. A. G Fippard, and Carrell; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Miss Soutes, Messrs. H. S Milligan, and A. Horse.

Per *Korea*, for San Francisco, Bishop T. A. Hendrick, Mr and Mrs P. H. Brooks, Mr and Mrs R. H. Patterson, Mrs B. W. Holly, Mrs Whitelaw, Mrs J. R. Edie, Mrs C. Perry, Mrs R. Chancy, Misses Ida, Della Patterson, and M. E. Langford, Capt. and Mrs E. B. Gose and children, Capt. A. McMorland, Dr. G. S Nichols, Dr. Valenzuela, Rev. S. B Rawlinson, Messrs. C. Haranas, Fernand Levie, M. R. Goldsborough, O. J. Philips, C. E. Putnam, Y. H. Fol, Geo. B. Rea, A. R. Gard, and M. W. Creagh.

Per *Zafiro*, from Manila, Mr and Mrs Bansher, Miss Borden, Dr. Leurink, Messrs. King' Vanderson, Shannon, and Kamota.

Per *Empire*, from Kobe, Mrs Rutherford, Mrs Hope, Miss Menzies Capt. Nickelsen, Messrs. Owenson, Thurman, and Pounwig.

Per *Haiching*, from Coast Ports, Mrs A. B. Moulder, Capt. Thomas, Rev. Father Noval, Rev. Father Narro, Messrs. W. M. Gibb, James Pringle, W. M. McColl, J. Titt, C. O. Smith, and Fries.

Per *Tuming*, from Manila, Miss M. Thye, Fathers J. Gonzales, and C. G. Vallas, Messrs. A. R. Gaud W. Creagh, F. Filder, R. R. Aitken, M. Velva, and W. Ferrar.

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DEPARTED.

Per *Oceanien*, for Shanghai, Misses Mina Green, and S Grimbeal, Revs. P. Debourg, P. P. Francisco, Julien and Gastre, Messrs. Paul Chilthorpe, J. M. Forrester, A. L. Malvis, F. Denis, A. S. Johnson, and Gaia Eligio; for Yokohama, Rev. P. M. Ballet.

Per *Salazie*, for Saigon, Mr and Mrs Henry Bansher, Mrs Forbes and baby, Mrs F. Allen, Misses Mary Borden, Dora Steiger, Abdala, and de Becker, Revs. G P. Robert, Seiller, Bonnaud and Monnier, Messrs. F. Fielder, Charles Guilbert, and Walter; for Singapore, Mr and Mrs Witthoefft, Miss R. Feukelstein, and Dr. G. Leurink; for Batavia, Mr Sutherland; for Marseilles, Messrs. Ravenet, and Emile Bes du Paul Beau.

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